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Official Records

32nd plenary meeting
Tuesday, 11 October 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Zinsou (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 138 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/66/492)

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee that is before it.

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, either in the Committee or in the plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee. May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes.

Before we take action on the recommendation contained in the report, I should like to inform representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 66/4).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 138.

Agenda items 63 and 13

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/202)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/214)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/66/169)

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): In his report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/66/202), the Secretary-General stresses the progress that African countries have made in implementing what we can rightly call Africa's own vision for its development. Appropriately, the report coincides with NEPAD's tenth anniversary.

NEPAD's objectives are by now well known: implementing priority programmes and projects at the regional and continental level, strengthening partnerships, mobilizing resources, seeking cooperation efforts in order to advance development in Africa, creating a favourable environment for private sector development, creating links among institutions, and using existing technical resources in support of the NEPAD agenda.

Today we can confirm that the New Partnership for Africa's Development is making encouraging progress in many areas — particularly peace and security, democracy and revitalization of the economy — that are foundation stones for new national, regional and continental efforts, as are partnerships with the international community. The programme has laid a foundation for Africa's recovery in all areas — health, infrastructure, agriculture and food security — and for renewed international cooperation for the development of the continent.

But many challenges remain to be addressed, primarily through the efforts of African countries — since NEPAD should be implemented through national programmes adopted by the countries themselves — but also with the support of the international community. The debate we will begin today focuses on this.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): I have the privilege to address the General Assembly on behalf of the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Since this is the first time for ASEAN as a group to deliver its statement in the plenary at this session, I wish to offer on ASEAN's behalf our congratulations through you, Sir, to Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser on his assumption of the presidency of the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. We are committed to supporting and cooperating with the presidency during this session in order to ensure its successful conclusion.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports under agenda items 63 (A/66/202 and A/66/214) and 13 (A/66/169).

Striking events and important changes have taken place all over the world in the last few years. Africa is one of the places where we have witnessed positive shifts, but at the same time difficult humanitarian situations.

Although domestic leadership is a key to Africa's development, the international community plays an important role in supporting their efforts. ASEAN affirms its commitment to continue building synergies and friendship with Africa through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership adopted by all leaders of Asian and African countries in 2005.

In conjunction with the tenth anniversary of the adoption of NEPAD, we need to think afresh how resources and creative energies could be better channelled. Let us explore opportunities to build on the progress made in implementing NEPAD projects. More importantly, since people are a country's most important asset, we should also focus on capacity-building and human resource development in Africa. As emphasized in the Secretary-General's report, the tenth anniversary of NEPAD should be viewed as a turning point from business as usual towards policy actions and results.

Action is vital, considering that one of the distressing facts coinciding with NEPAD's tenth anniversary is uneven progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where Africa lags far behind other regions. More can be done to support implementation of the eight MDGs.

On trade, although there has been virtually no progress on the conclusion of the Doha Round, ASEAN and NEPAD have a common interest in upholding the primacy of the multilateral trading system. We should continue to renew our commitment to finding solutions for common interests and concerns in this negotiation process.

ASEAN views the African Peer Review Mechanism as an innovative instrument for strengthening Africa's position for advancing good governance and socio-economic development. We are pleased to hear that 30 countries have joined the Mechanism, and we would like to encourage more African countries to join. ASEAN therefore urges strategic partners to lend their support to this process.

Our discussion this year is taking place against the backdrop of the devastating impact of climate change, especially in East Africa and the Horn of Africa. It is therefore important that our work in the plenary here contribute to the larger goal of reaching a successful outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban and of the preparation for the Conference on Sustainable Development next year.

Climate change also has an impact on health in Africa. The 2001 *Third Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change showed that with even a small rise in temperature the risk of malaria transmission would be greatly increased. While progress has been made towards meeting the goal of malaria control, and the recorded cases and deaths due to malaria in African countries have fallen by 50 per cent, malaria continues to affect the more vulnerable, and it remains a leading killer of children under five years old.

ASEAN and Africa share the same concern on the need to combat malaria. ASEAN urges all countries and development partners to show their political will in fighting this infectious disease. Furthermore, ASEAN supports the recommendations in the global plan for artemisinin resistance containment, not only to increase people's awareness of this risk but also to preserve artemisinin-based combination therapies as an effective treatment for falciparum malaria. There is also an urgent need to build a human network for infectious disease control through promoting human resources and capacity-building

ASEAN believes that in order to achieve stability and security and spur legitimate economic activity it is absolutely vital that the parties concerned take effective and sustained measures against the many challenges they face, including maritime security, drug trafficking, organized crime, youth unemployment and extreme poverty, which are all often mutually reinforcing.

ASEAN emphasizes the importance of post-conflict peacebuilding strategies when dealing with countries emerging from conflict in the region. To that end, ASEAN reaffirms its commitment to the role and work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). In ASEAN'S view, the promotion of the peacebuilding agenda in those countries will contribute not only to the creation of environments conducive to the attainment of durable peace but also to sustainable development in Africa.

ASEAN supports all initiatives focusing on enhancing youth employment, as many young people engage in illicit activities because of poverty and unemployment. We believe that the PBC can assist countries to encourage and support home-grown programmes, including on youth employment, vocational training for youth and education.

ASEAN also commends the role and work of regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union, NEPAD and the Economic Community of West African States, in assisting countries in the region, in particular those under the PBC agenda.

Finally, ASEAN countries stress the importance for the United Nations, development partners and the international community to continue to strengthen their work and focus on assisting African countries. While we believe inclusiveness is important, we also recognize the need for effective, timely decision-making and implementable results.

Mr. Kamau (Kenya): On behalf of the African States, I wish to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his reports on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), including on progress in implementation and international support (A/66/202) and on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/66/214), and his report on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa (A/66/169). We also thank both traditional and new development partners for their support for the NEPAD programmes and projects.

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of NEPAD this year, we are all reminded of the need to strengthen governance structures and institutions, deepen the democratic ethos, and reform our investment climate and make it business-friendly in order to increase our collective competitiveness. Enhancing the quality of educational institutions, particularly for higher

education, and making them practical is also of the utmost importance.

The African Group expects that our development partners will renew their political commitment to ensure meaningful support to programmes and projects to meet Africa's development needs. The Group is of the opinion that an enabling international environment is indispensable. Our priorities are many, but the most urgent ones include industrialization, infrastructure development, agricultural transformation and the building of human capital, as well as, of course, the fundamental aspects related to trade, which include market access and the development of a modern service infrastructure.

Partnerships with both traditional and new development partners should therefore seek to integrate Africa into the global economy through industrialization, diversification, infrastructure and human capital development. Furthermore, a development reorientation from the export of primary products to manufactured or processed goods is urgent and must be pursued. NEPAD recognizes the critical role of the private sector, both domestic and foreign-owned, as the continent's engine of economic growth.

Africa continues to be plagued by long-term and, in some cases, interrelated crises, including violent conflicts that have caused immense human suffering. In the light of the serious implications of conflict for several aspects of the development of Africa, initiatives from peacebuilding to post-conflict reconstruction and development have been launched throughout the continent.

A central theme in the African Union/NEPAD agenda is bringing together the issues of peace and security, governance and constitutionalism, economic development, and international partnerships — and the way those partnerships drive governance and economic development. African countries will continue to pay special attention to those matters.

Trade is an important tool for economic growth and development. However, Africa's share of global trade remains negligible. Africa accounts for only 3 per cent of world trade, while its share in global manufactured exports is close to zero. The African Group has put in place measures aimed at increasing the volume of intraregional trade throughout the continent through regional blocs.

On the same note, Africa wants to improve its external trade with all its partners. However, the faltering process in concluding the Doha Round is impeding Africa's market access to trade. We call on all parties to show flexibility and conclude the trade talks as a matter of urgency. Aid for trade should be further emphasized to improve our supply-side constraints and enhance our participation in international trade.

Foreign direct investment flows to Africa should also target labour-intensive infrastructure development projects. They should include transfer of knowledge and technology and should build up the service sector, such as banking, insurance and medicine, and the industrial sector, such as aeronautical and automotive components, information and communications technology, off-shore food processing, et cetera.

We urge development partners to take urgent collective actions to fulfil all their aid commitments to Africa, as official development assistance contributes to economic growth in important ways. The continent urges partners to fulfil their commitments to double official development assistance to Africa to support Africa's development. I also wish to point out that emphasis should shift from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, to better measure the impact of the resources that have been contributed to Africa.

With regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Africa has made significant progress. However, the continent remains off-track on the way to achieving some of the MDGs by 2015. Concerns remain with regard to quality education, infant and maternal health, malnutrition, safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Social protection programmes and job creation are required to reduce poverty and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs as well.

The role of the NEPAD Agency as a planning unit is to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of regional and continental programmes and the mobilization of resources for the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects. It remains central to the collective manner in which the African Union and Africa will be doing business collectively. The role of the NEPAD Agency in conducting and coordinating research and in knowledge management will create an enabling environment to help Africa achieve the food security, agricultural development and

infrastructure expansion — all, we hope, in the next 5 to 10 years.

In that regard, the African Group looks forward to constructive engagements during the forthcoming informal consultations on the need to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to Africa's development needs. With the mechanism in place, the Group hopes that commitments by both African Governments and their development partners will be reviewed and enhanced, possibly by the beginning of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Malaria infects over 170 million Africans each year, crippling economic growth and undermining the growth of gross domestic product (GDP), to the tune of a 2 per cent loss in growth every year. In the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) heads of State and Government are determined to remove that debilitating impediment to progress once and for all. As members of the African Union and of ALMA, heads of State and Government pledged to end the scourge of malaria. Those efforts have the potential to bear fruit and save at least $12 billion per annum in direct costs, freeing up much needed resources for implementation, service delivery and acceleration of development.

It is encouraging to know that in high-burden African countries that have achieved high rates in providing their populations with insecticide-treated nets and treatment programmes, recorded cases and deaths due to malaria have fallen by 50 per cent. This has greatly supported the achievement of MDG 6 and has helped to reverse the incidence of malaria throughout the continent. In addition, the findings that the lives of more than 750 million children across 34 malaria-endemic African countries have been saved through vector control have been very encouraging.

In conclusion, I wish to state that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development — the Rio+20 Summit — to be held in June next year in Brazil constitutes an important opportunity to reaffirm and renew political commitment to implement previous decisions and undertakings in accordance with the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and all of the relevant outcomes of the major conferences and summits on sustainable development. The Conference must therefore aim to achieve substantive progress on its objectives and themes.

In that regard, the African Group is committed to working with all partners and stakeholders to take forward the needed action to ensure the success of the Conference. Accordingly, the continent is already holding consultative meetings in line with the Malabo Declaration adopted by the heads of State and Government of the African Union in June. We will work towards the formulation of a common position during the forthcoming Africa regional preparatory conference on Rio+20, scheduled to take place at the African Union headquarters in October. The African Group wishes to reiterate that the objectives and themes of the Conference are mutually supportive and must be pursued in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): In today's debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), I have the honour, on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to renew our solidarity and partnership in the cause of Africa's progress.

I wish to begin by paying tribute on behalf of our Community to the life and memory of a distinguished daughter of Africa: the noted environmentalist, women's activist and Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai of Kenya, whose passing is a loss not only to her native home, but to Africa and to the world. Ms. Wangari served the cause of peace and sustainable development as a champion for the downtrodden.

CARICOM also extends sincere congratulations to the three joint recipients of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, two of them from Africa: Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia, her compatriot Ms. Leymah Gbowee and Ms. Tawakkul Karman of Yemen. They have distinguished themselves as a potent force for change in the face of towering odds. We hope that women everywhere will take courage and inspiration from that development.

In this tenth anniversary year of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, CARICOM reaffirms its strong support for NEPAD. The New Partnership represents Africa's blueprint for socio-economic advancement for the benefit of the more than one billion people who call the continent home. CARICOM's support for NEPAD is based on fundamental respect for Africa's ownership and leadership of its own development process. The success of NEPAD will contribute to enabling Africans

to fulfil the promise of their potential and Africa to assume its rightful place in the global economy.

Much has changed on the continent since our last debate on these issues, during the sixty-fifth session (see A/65/PV.30 and A/65/PV.31). We have witnessed momentous developments in North Africa and the Middle East as people have sought to give renewed expression to their quest for higher standards of life in larger freedom. Those developments have doubtless begun to change the face of Africa. The role of youth in that context will be instructive for future policy in Africa, where on average some 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 25. The Secretary-General has therefore rightly called attention to issues pertaining to youth, education and employment on the continent.

The past year has also seen the birth of a new African State, the Republic of South Sudan. CARICOM countries welcome the Republic of South Sudan into the community of independent States and offer our support to the South Sudanese people and Government as they embark on building the new Republic. The actions taken so far by the international community in support of that country also enjoy the appreciation of our Community. At the same time, we recognize that several issues remain to be resolved between South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan. We urge that they be settled peacefully through negotiations.

On another front, CARICOM has been deeply troubled by the havoc being wreaked on human life as a result of the devastating famine that has struck the Horn of Africa. A number of our member States have made tangible contributions to the humanitarian response effort. We urge the international community to ensure that life-giving support is extended to all affected populations throughout the region.

As the Secretary-General's report attests, recent developments in Africa point to the promise and the pitfalls that lie ahead for the region. The continent has recorded positive economic growth and an improvement in socio-economic and development indicators. At the same time, the number of people living in extreme poverty has increased. Africa faces the greatest risk in all the developing world of falling short in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and will therefore necessarily remain a key focus for development efforts over the next five years.

United Nations efforts in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding also remain critical to Africa's quest for durable peace and sustainable development. We welcome the focus in this regard on preventive diplomacy. CARICOM supports continued active engagement in these areas so that the spectre of conflict and division will yield to a new paradigm where the vast resources of its many great people will be deployed in service of their welfare and to lay the foundations for enduring progress.

The successes recorded in recent years in United Nations peacekeeping in Africa and the emergence of more African countries from conflict are encouraging signs, although recovery in some instances is fragile and the risk of relapse is still very present. These facts underscore the importance of United Nations peacebuilding efforts and the imperative of creating the necessary conditions both inside and outside the continent for those efforts to prosper.

In many ways, therefore, Africa represents a beacon of opportunity for international cooperation and partnership. The international community has to stay the course, create a favourable economic environment, honour its commitments and expand opportunities Africa's trade. Developed countries must fulfil their commitments to Africa.

At the same time, South-South cooperation and partnerships are an integral part of the international response and are fundamentally altering the continent's economic relationships with the rest of the world. The Caribbean Community stands ready as a partner with Africa to advance our mutual objectives in the political, economic, social, environmental and cultural domains.

Our two regions face a number of challenges in common, not least in the area of health. The scourge of HIV/AIDS continues to seriously affect our respective populations. This unwelcome reality is nevertheless an opportunity for collaboration and the exchange of experience and best practices. CARICOM is grateful for the support extended by African countries to the CARICOM initiative on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which resulted in the adoption a Political Declaration (resolution 66/2) at the High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. The Declaration

provides a framework for concerted action by the international community on this issue. CARICOM also strongly supports efforts to roll back malaria on the continent and thereby enhance the lives and livelihoods of over 170 million Africans.

CARICOM takes note of the progress recorded under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in the priority areas of agriculture and food security, as well as of the actions taken in respect of the development of infrastructure, transport and energy. The growth of agriculture is critical to Africa's development prospects. CARICOM strongly supports and encourages the work currently under way to promote an African green revolution with a view to ensuring that Africa will be self-sufficient in food by 2015. We urge the international community to continue and strengthen its support for Africa's efforts to realize these objectives.

The challenge posed by climate change is a test of our common future. Africa will host the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November and December. An ambitious and comprehensive global response to the threat posed by climate change is especially urgent for the many countries in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and elsewhere that are on the frontlines of this looming catastrophe. We call for an urgent scaling-up of international action to ensure the delivery of credible results when the Conference meets in Durban, South Africa.

CARICOM is ever mindful of the complex interrelationships between governance, peace and development. The Caribbean Community promotes and encourages the adherence to democratic principles, good governance, the rule of law and the protection of human rights. We support the ongoing efforts of African countries to improve economic and political governance and to strengthen mechanisms for the participation, inclusion and empowerment of all segments of African society.

The instrumental role of the African Peer Review Mechanism in these efforts is worthy of note, as is the support of the Mechanism as reflected by the 30 African countries that have so far subscribed to it. CARICOM also believes that focused efforts must continue to be made to eliminate the combination of internal and external factors that engender conflict and stymie development.

The African continent, which served as a cradle of ancient civilization and the birthplace of the Arab Spring, now beckons as a new frontier of human progress. As Africa charts its way forward, the continued support of the international community remains vital to its success. But that success will not be Africa's alone; the fruits of progress on the continent will inevitably contribute to progress in other parts of the world. CARICOM will continue to stand as a willing partner in the cause of Africa's progress.

Mrs. Kaur (India): It gives me great pleasure to attend today's joint debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the promotion of peace and development in Africa, including in its efforts to fight malaria.

In the immortal words of India's first Prime Minister, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, Africa is our sister continent. India's links with Africa are civilizational; they are anchored in centuries of trade across the Indian Ocean, in the shared struggle against the yoke of colonialism, in our endeavour of post-colonial nation-building, and in our common quest to unshackle our people from the bondage of poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy and apartheid. We also owe a debt of gratitude to that great continent for being the political birthplace of the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who first tested his central precepts of non-violence and peaceful resistance in South Africa.

After the adoption of NEPAD, it is befitting to recognize the noteworthy progress made so far in pursuing sectoral priorities in agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, science, information technology and the environment. Nevertheless, this decadal milestone also offers an opportunity for sober reflection on the unfinished tasks ahead in fulfilling the vision of socio-economic growth and sustainable development that was envisaged when the framework was first conceived.

Particularly relevant to this discussion is the pivotal contribution of international cooperation to Africa's development, especially in its efforts to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and in surmounting the difficult challenges confronting post-conflict and transitional societies in Africa.

As rightly emphasized by the Secretary-General in his report (A/66/202), the international community needs to step up its efforts and bridge the gap between promise and delivery. The shortfall of $18 billion in meeting official development assistance commitments to Africa is a cause for concern. In these times of political uncertainty and fragile transitions in many African countries, it is more crucial than ever for the continent's development partners to stay the course and help African countries to achieve their development goals.

On India's part, we have together with our African partners, transformed our age-old and special engagement into an enduring and multidimensional relationship. Having been carefully nurtured over successive years, our partnership with Africa today is aligned with the priorities integral to the development goals of Africa and is built on the foundations of mutual equality and common benefit. Sectoral areas of cooperation that have been accorded high priority include infrastructure development, capacity-building, agriculture, health, food security and technical cooperation.

Earlier this year, we reaffirmed our abiding commitment to working with our African partners at the Second India-Africa Forum Summit, held in Addis Ababa in May. At the Summit, India announced fresh lines of credit worth $5 billion over the next three years for Africa and an additional $700 million in grant assistance for human resource development, technology transfer and the creation of new institutions and training programmes, in consultation with the African Union, the regional economic communities and our African partners.

In keeping with NEPAD's emphasis on infrastructure development, we have also decided to support the development of the new Ethio-Djibouti Railway in the amount of $300 million. We are also discussing with the African Union how to increase capacity in the development of regional railway structures.

Building on the success of the Pan African e-Network project, which shares with all African countries our expertise in the fields of health care, education through satellite, fibre optics and wireless links, we are looking at setting up an India-Africa virtual university. The proposed university will set aside 10,000 new scholarships for African students. In addition, we are going to significantly raise the number of African beneficiaries of our scholarships and training slots, including under our flagship technical and economic assistance initiative, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. We have committed ourselves to offering more than 22,000 scholarships to African students over the next three years.

With a view to encouraging trade and investment flows, there is also a proposal to establish an India-Africa business council. India is already unilaterally making available duty-free and quota-free market access for goods from 34 of the least developed countries (LDCs) in Africa, which covers 94 per cent of India's total tariff lines and provides preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.5 per cent of the global exports of all the LDCs.

India's private sector has played an increasingly important role in recent years in supporting trade and investment flows. Indian companies have made large investments in African industry, agriculture, services, human resource development and infrastructure. The Indian conglomerate Tata has emerged as the second largest investor in sub-Saharan Africa. New initiatives to establish an India-Africa food processing cluster, an India-Africa integrated textiles cluster, an India-Africa civil aviation academy, an India-Africa centre for medium-range weather forecasting, and an India-Africa institute for agriculture and rural development are all on the anvil.

India has also contributed actively in efforts to maintain peace and security on the African continent through our six-decade involvement in United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Our most substantial presence remains in Africa, including in the latest peacekeeping mission in South Sudan. Further, India will contribute $2 million to the African Union Mission in Somalia, in line with our consistent support to the development of African capacities in the maintenance of peace and security. We have consistently held the position that the international community must further encourage regional and subregional organizations in Africa to play a more important role both in peacekeeping and in peacebuilding issues within Africa.

Before concluding, I would like to speak on the global anti-malaria campaign, particularly in Africa, dealt with in the World Health Organization report transmitted by the Secretary-General (A/66/169). The

report emphasizes the need to intensify efforts to reach recently revised and more ambitious targets by 2015. The analysis presented in the report draws on empirical evidence to suggest a strong link between the injection of significant funding and the rise in the number of lives saved as a result of anti-malaria efforts. The fact that funding has stagnated in the past two years is therefore particularly worrisome. We would urge all donors to step up efforts at this critical juncture.

India's own cooperation agenda with Africa includes capacity-building programmes for medical and health specialists to tackle such pandemics as malaria, filariasis, polio, HIV and tuberculosis. India's private sector has been investing in establishing pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in African countries. We are willing to do more.

In conclusion, India's vision of the twenty-first century sees a great and dynamic role for Africa as an emerging growth pole of the world. We will offer our fullest cooperation to translate this vision into reality. We will take our partnership, founded on mutual solidarity and kinship, from pillar to pillar, to harness the great potential of the more than 2.1 billion Indians and Africans.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): Today's debate on progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and international support for that initiative is important on three counts.

It enables us to engage the international community with the celebration of the tenth anniversary of NEPAD. It also allows this universal forum to assess the multidimensional changes that have taken place in Africa since NEPAD began and the launch of its renewal programme. Finally, it is a valuable framework for assessing the contributions of the international community and to give new impetus to the global partnership in support of the dynamic being pursued towards new progress in Africa.

We note first that NEPAD was born of the realization that we needed to raise Africa out of its marginalization and that Africans themselves needed to take ownership of the political, economic and social development of the continent. Africa must itself make the main effort in its process of renewal, which will requires a qualitative change in its relationship with the rest of the world, replacing traditional modes of cooperating with a genuine partnership based on reciprocal commitments.

That is why, since it was launched, NEPAD has been a credible approach to fomenting change to respond consistently to the interrelated challenges of peace and security, good governance and the optimization of the human and economic potential of Africa.

After 10 years of implementation of this multidimensional approach to development, we can now see significant results in three strategic areas.

In the area of peace and security, undeniable progress has been made in conflict prevention, settlement and management. That willingness on the part of Africa to strengthen its leadership in the area of peace and security on the continent is opening the way for greater opportunities to solve long-standing conflicts and solve new crises.

On the subject of governance, it is widely recognized that democracy is now widespread and that its further entrenchment is making good progress. Likewise, our economies are being increasingly well managed. In the area of human development, significant progress has been made through an increase in public expenditure on education and health care and reforms to improve the quality of and access to education. Particular attention has been paid to agricultural development through increased investment, research and the introduction of techniques developed to increase production of basic foodstuffs, which is vital to food security.

All of those factors together have contributed to an average growth rate of 5 per cent over the past decade, for the first time exceeding the rate of population growth. Incidentally, the pace of growth could have been even higher if the international environment had been more favourable, but the global financial, economic, food and climate crises have affected the dynamics of growth and the fight to reduce poverty, compromising our ability to achieve some of the Millennium Development Goals.

Allow me to underline that NEPAD has become the reference point for the activities of international partners and institutions that support African development programmes. For their part, the agencies of the United Nations system have integrated the approach and goals of NEPAD into their respective

operations. That has undoubtedly contributed to improving the consistency of international cooperation.

The dynamic process that Africa has undertaken and the convergence of approaches with its partners have made it possible to develop a promising partnership. We are all aware that the challenges of achieving stability and development and the fight against poverty require even further collective effort to maintain and accelerate the process of African renewal. The priority areas for a strengthened partnership in this new phase are the promotion of investment in job creation, the development of infrastructure networks at the national and regional levels, the facilitation of access to markets for African exports, the diversification of our economies, and regional integration.

The excellent report of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on NEPAD (A/66/202) reflects the clear resolve of the United Nations to engage even further and in a more coordinated way in responding to the priorities and needs of Africa and to help it in its drive to spur renewed efforts. The development of Africa, so vital to its peoples, should also be seen as an opportunity for the world economy and as a contribution to the economic and social progress of all of humankind.

Mr. Sene (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to extend the thanks of the Republic of Senegal to the President of the Assembly for convening this important debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of its adoption in July 2001 in Lusaka as a result of combining the Millennium Africa Recovery Plan and the Omega Plan of President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal.

In the same vein, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for the excellent reports he has prepared, featuring pertinent and useful recommendations for the socio-economic renewal of the African continent.

The continent-wide initiative that is NEPAD has always been founded on a concept of development from within and a will for remediation of the institutional and infrastructural disparity between North and South through a partnership of equals that circumvents the constraints of assistance. NEPAD offers a new concept of the nature and focus of the relations Africa should have with the rest of the world. NEPAD's ambitious programme exhorts Africa to take principle responsibility for its own development, but it also posits actions on the part of the international community to assist our continent in its tireless efforts to free itself from the circumstances of underdevelopment.

As the Secretary-General highlights so well in his report (A/66/202), it is clear today that, in the course of NEPAD's first 10 years, Africa has made significant progress in many respects, especially in quelling hotbeds of tension, restoring economic growth, good governance and democracy, as well as in promoting human rights and gender equality.

We must admit, however, that despite the encouraging signs pointed out by the Secretary-General, progress remains slow and difficulties continue to weigh heavily on our continent's potential. Indeed, in many other areas we find the grim portrait of failure, made bleaker by the recent economic, food, energy and environmental crises, which have kept Africa in intractable difficulties and left it at a crossroads in its quest for development.

Even more worrying and dire are the high statistics on poverty, which runs at two-fifths of the African population; on HIV, which has infected more than 20 million people; on malaria, which is rampant on our continent and kills 9 out of 10 of those infected worldwide; and on infant and maternal mortality. Clearly, Africa will have trouble finding its economic wings if we do not mitigate those overwhelming constraints.

It is through pledges and funding that the international community can really help Africa's initiatives. Today, the formulation of the NEPAD sectoral priorities has led to on the launch of several building projects, whose success will require major international support. Of the $64 billion pledged at Gleneagles, Africa has received only $46 billion. At the same time, the pledge to increase by $25 billion the total of official development assistance to Africa has yet to be honoured. That is one illustration, among many others, that show that the international partnerships have been slow in rising to the meet their stated expectations and goals.

Of course, as I said earlier, the need for international assistance does not at all relieve every African State of its primary responsibility to set in motion its own development. Senegal commends the

Secretary-General's recommendations that African countries further strengthen mechanisms to ensure the participation, inclusion and involvement of all strata of society in policy and development.

The tenth anniversary of NEPAD could represent a turning point in the actualization of its sectoral priorities. Resolve and leadership will be necessary to transform the vision of Africa's development and international pledges into real results and political action. We agree with the Secretary-General that

> "the option of 'business as usual' should not be an alternative as it would lead to broken promises and further delay the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of NEPAD". (*A/66/202, p. 2*)

Senegal also welcomes the decision to integrate NEPAD into the institutional architecture of the African Union Commission via the creation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency in February 2010. We welcome full discussion of that measure, which assures the increased consistency and effectiveness of our institutional mechanisms. Senegal also welcomes the choice made by NEPAD's new leadership, along with the African Union Commission, to promote the continent's development through road and railway infrastructure projects. As the lead engineer of the project to link Dakar and Djibouti, Senegal pledges to ensure the completion this ambitious programme for the economic and political integration of the continent.

In the context of the African renaissance, the touchstone of NEPAD, my country appeals to the international community to support initiatives whose implementation will have a more than positive impact on the future of our continent. I refer to the strengthening of the African Peer Review Mechanism, an important lever for promoting good governance, increasing public spending on agriculture to 10 per cent, in accordance with the Maputo Declaration, and protecting the environment with the Great Green Wall, which would cross the Sahel from the Atlantic to Djibouti. These African initiatives deserve the support and assistance of the international community.

African development will perforce require stability and lasting peace. In this connection, we welcome the return of Côte d'Ivoire to constitutional order. After a period of great pain, that country is now demonstrating to the world its ability to overcome the past and its attachment to the cardinal principles of democracy, justice and peace that were so dear to the founder of the Ivorian nation, the late President Félix Houphouët-Boigny. My country believes in the genius of the Ivorian people and reiterates its unwavering support for that brotherly country and friend as it embarks on a sensitive phase of its march towards stability, peace and progress.

We express the same hope for peace and restored stability with regard to Somalia, Darfur and Madagascar, as well as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. All those countries need the special attention of the United Nations if they are to achieve sustainable peace. Following the events collectively referred to as the Arab Spring, which brought unexpected shocks to the stability of that region of Africa, Senegal reiterates its urgent call for implementation of the reforms that would place our continent on the pedestal of lasting peace.

Senegal also wants the United Nations to focus enhanced and reinvigorated attention on the new State of South Sudan, whose arrival on the international scene marked the end of decades of crisis and tension and was the object of numerous mediation efforts, the most decisive of which took place in Eldoret in Kenya.

Africa is also facing the challenge of malaria, which is seriously undermining our efforts towards economic recovery. This devastating illness continues to kill thousands of Africans, especially young people, women and children. We recognize the immense sacrifices that have led to increased funding for the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The media continue to portray Africa as the continent most afflicted by economic, financial, environmental, energy and food crises. Africa is home to 32 of the world's 48 least developed countries. Yet it is struggling and mobilizing with immeasurable determination and self-denial to emerge from the labyrinths of poverty. It faces towering obstacles, both endogenous and exogenous, and will emerge into health only in the context of just and equitable partnership based on truth and sincerity, far from the lofty promises and commitments that are rarely honoured.

Mr. Al-Shammari (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation is honoured to participate in today's debate on the New Partnership for Africa's

Development (NEPAD). We read very closely the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/202) on the progress made in the implementation of and international support for NEPAD. Kuwait attaches great importance to our partnership with Africa and its concerns and interests, given our close and historic ties with its countries.

It has been 10 years since the adoption by African countries of NEPAD, which seeks to achieve equitable development on a large scale, to reduce poverty and to enable Africa to become economically integrated into the world economy. We hope that sustainable development, which has repeatedly been emphasized in resolutions adopted at a number of conferences held by African countries, will allow us to establish a fair partnership between developed and developing countries in order to contribute to the stability of economic relations between those nations. We also hope that it will lead to a fair and balanced world trade that will respond to Africa's special needs.

At the high-level panel to evaluate progress made in the implementation of NEPAD, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro emphasized the slow pace of progress being made on the African continent towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. That reality, I believe, should spur us even further to help Africa overcome the obstacles it faces in making progress towards development.

The efforts of African countries to emerge from the vicious cycle of debt and to free up funds for development are among the major challenges that the continent is facing. Some highly indebted countries have benefited from bilateral debt cancellation by donor countries, while the International Monetary Fund has launched an initiative for highly indebted poor countries.

Debt cancellation is a positive step to which Kuwait contributed even before the establishment of NEPAD. We call for the alleviation of the debt burden of highly indebted poor African countries, in line with the statement made by the late Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah of Kuwait at the forty-third session of the General Assembly in 1988, in which asked countries to cancel the debt weighing heavily on the economies of developing countries and countries experiencing significant economic difficulties (see A/43/PV.8). In this respect, we stress the comment in the Secretary-General's report that

> "efforts to relieve the external debt burden of African countries within the framework of the heavily indebted poor countries... debt initiative, the multilateral debt relief initiative... and at the bilateral level, the amount of debt and debt servicing has been drastically reduced since its peak in the mid-1990s" (*A/66/202, para. 54*).

The total external debt of sub-Saharan countries used to be 73 per cent of gross national product (GNP). That rate was reduced to 25 per cent of GNP by 2010, which has freed up the funds necessary to enable those countries to spend more on initiatives to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Kuwait continues to provide development aid to developing countries, and to African countries in particular, through its public and private institutions. This ongoing policy is based on our belief that supporting the economies of African countries is important to helping them achieve the MDGs, which will ultimately benefit everyone and enable us to improve partnerships and cooperation and to strengthen the international economic and trading systems.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development helps to strengthen a number of African and international development funds, such as the African Development Fund, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the Special Programme for sub-Saharan Africa, as well as a number of financial institutions that fund African development. Kuwait has spent approximately $500 million on such initiatives. We have also helped to support the provision of basic foodstuffs and of funds to combat HIV/AIDS.

In conclusion, let me stress that African countries themselves must strengthen their own efforts in this international initiative. They must reach out to the donor countries and more emphatically raise the awareness of the international community of the need to create a NEPAD that is integrated into Africa's structures and operations, with the help of the public and private sectors and civil society. A partnership is not a short-term thing; it is an ongoing process, and we commend the pioneering role of international institutions in mobilizing support for this initiative. African countries have made significant efforts to convince the international community that their

development should be a priority and that peace and stability are essential to creating that development.

It is high time that the international community made meaningful progress in honouring its commitments and began to help African countries to implement a number of specific NEPAD programmes and projects, as well as in guaranteeing the climate of peace that is so essential to development.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I thank the President for convening this debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of NEPAD, and draw closer to the deadlines we have set ourselves for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it is essential that we take stock of these issues. I will briefly address each in turn.

Australia itself has rapidly expanded its engagement with the countries and institutions of Africa in recent years. We needed to, and we have done so because we recognize Africa's growing global role and leadership, and the opportunities and dynamism that the continent offers. Our relationship with the African Union and our development cooperation are important parts of this. We have tripled development cooperation with Africa since 2007. We expect it to double again by 2015, in an overall development assistance budget that will also have doubled by then, to around $10 billion.

Our development cooperation is focused on supporting African priorities, including those expressed, importantly, through NEPAD, in order to achieve the MDGs. We seek to make a practical contribution in areas where we have expertise and experience: agriculture and food security, maternal and child health, water and sanitation, mining governance and human resource capacity-building. NEPAD helps us, as a growing donor, by setting priorities and helping us coordinate with regional and national initiatives.

We welcome the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union. NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, as an example, has helped Australia focus our food security assistance, coordinating with others and avoiding duplication. I would also like to commend the work of the African Peer Review Mechanism, a product of NEPAD, which is providing Member States with frank analysis of their progress on governance.

We should all recognize NEPAD's achievements; we know that. However, we must also note a few significant challenges as we look forward. These include the dangerous global economic outlook and the stalling of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Australia will continue to press for an ambitious, comprehensive outcome of Doha that liberalizes trade, including, importantly, agricultural trade. Agricultural trade liberalization, combined with effective aid-for-trade activities in the region, will help Africa trade its way out of poverty.

NEPAD can continue to play a useful role in supporting improved intraregional trade, which, although increasing, remains too low. This could include supporting regional integration efforts, such as the rationalization of regional trade agreements. NEPAD could also play an enhanced role in helping attract private sector investment in support of much-needed and essential infrastructure development.

When it comes to Africa's development, it is important that donor countries do what they say they will do, and that they honour their commitments — that we honour our commitments. This is what Australia seeks to do. In this spirit, we look forward to working on the process, to be facilitated by Kenya and Sweden, for establishing a monitoring mechanism to follow up on commitments related to Africa's development.

I now turn briefly to the issue of malaria. I would like to thank the Secretary-General and the World Health Organization (WHO) for the report on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria (A/66/169). Australia acknowledges the impressive global gains made in malaria control. These include saving the lives of almost three-quarters of a million children across 34 malaria-endemic African countries, representing 98 per cent of the at-risk population in Africa. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that MDG 6 and its targets are achieved by 2015.

As we have heard, malaria continues to have a serious human and economic impact worldwide, and the vast majority of cases and deaths still, of course, occur in Africa. As the representative of Kenya has just

noted, more than 170 million Africans are affected each year. Young children and pregnant women are particularly afflicted.

Australia's own commitment to malaria prevention and control in Africa and other affected regions is demonstrated by our three-year, $210-million commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and our multi-year commitment through the WHO. We also support national malaria programmes in our own immediate region, the Asia-Pacific. Since 2003, for example, Australia has helped reduce malaria cases by 80 per cent in Vanuatu and by more than half in the Solomon Islands. These results show that targeted action by national Governments and their development partners, working very closely together, can achieve significant progress.

But, of course, problems remain in this region. We are particularly concerned about the threat posed by the emergence of drug-resistant malaria in the Mekong region in Asia. The cost in terms of lives and economic impact could be significant, particularly if drug-resistant malaria spreads to Africa and the Pacific. Australia, in partnership with the WHO, the Global Fund and others, is commissioning research to inform a multi-donor strategy to address drug-resistant malaria in the Mekong region. The results, of course, will apply beyond.

In concluding, I should say that Australia remains very firmly committed to achieving the targets for MDG 6 by 2015, and, ultimately, to contributing to saving the lives of millions by bringing an end to the malaria epidemic worldwide. To do that, we must accelerate global efforts, including through effective partnerships, innovative research and increased financial investment. We are committed to doing so but it is, of course, a collective responsibility.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): As the blueprint for development designed by African countries themselves and the programme for economic and social development established by the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) embodies the strong desire of African countries to make joint efforts for common development. With the support of the international community, in recent years NEPAD has gained more substance, improved its mechanisms and set priority areas, such as agriculture and infrastructure, thus playing a positive role in promoting the development and revitalization of Africa.

However, owing to factors such as the volatility of the international financial market, the political instability of some areas, frequent natural disasters, rising food prices and the energy shortage, Africa still lags behind other regions of the world in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). On the occasion of NEPAD's tenth anniversary, the international community should use that opportunity to take stock and to sum up experience. On that basis, it should increase support to Africa to help it make greater strides in implementation so as to promote the stability and prosperity of the continent.

First, aid commitments should be effectively honoured. Although the total volume of official development assistance has shown some increase in recent years, it still falls far short of the committed goals and Africa's actual needs. The 2010 High-level Meeting on the MDGs called on the international community to implement its aid commitments to Africa (see resolution 65/1). The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action, giving new impetus to efforts for the accelerated attainment of the MDGs in Africa.

The international community, in particular developed countries, should effectively honour the commitments made, increase assistance and support to Africa, work to help Africa build capacity for self-development, and make active efforts to create favourable international economic, trade and financial conditions for Africa.

Secondly, the ownership of African countries should be respected. In providing help to African countries, the international community should have faith in the wisdom of the Government and people of African countries; respect the ownership and leadership of the recipient countries; respect the development path chosen by African countries themselves based on their national conditions; support them in addressing African affairs by themselves; help Africa maintain and consolidate peace and stability; and provide safeguards for its development.

Thirdly, active efforts are needed to tackle the challenge of climate change. Confronted with the multiple challenges posed by climate change, such as frequent floods and droughts, desertification, poor

harvests and the degradation of the ecological environment, African countries urgently need to enhance their capacity for adaptation. The international community should understand and support the legitimate concerns and claims of African countries, help them cope with climate change as an integral part of the effort to enhance their capacity for sustainable development, and promote the full and balanced development of Africa in a comprehensive and integrated way.

Fourthly, South-South cooperation should be strengthened. Recent years have seen vibrant trade and investment activities among countries of the South and the establishment of new mechanisms and initiatives among developing countries. That has injected new vitality into South-South cooperation and vigorously promoted the economic and social development of Africa. That kind of cooperation should be further strengthened.

At the same time, I wish to emphasize that South-South cooperation is a form of mutually beneficial cooperation among developing countries. It is different from North-South cooperation and can only be a supplement to, and not a substitute, for the latter.

Fifthly, efforts should be made to achieve durable peace. Recently, Africa has made good progress in conflict prevention, management and settlement and in post-conflict reconstruction. The United Nations system, Member States and regional and subregional organizations should work in coordination and cooperation, focus on the elimination of the causes of conflict in Africa, and strengthen efforts in conflict prevention and peace consolidation.

The United Nations should strengthen cooperation with the African Union in peace, security, political and humanitarian areas, and support it and other regional organizations in enhancing their peacekeeping capability. The Peacebuilding Commission should reinforce its partnership with the countries concerned, respect national ownership and address their special needs in terms of reconstruction and social integration in a coordinated way, thus laying a solid foundation for durable peace and sustainable development.

China is the largest developing country in the world. Its development remains an arduous and long-term task. In that context, China provides assistance to Africa within the framework of South-South cooperation as part of mutual assistance between developing countries. China's assistance to Africa dates back to 1956. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, established in 2000, is an important contemporary platform for dialogue between China and African countries and an effective mechanism for pragmatic cooperation. As of the end of 2009, there were 51 African countries that had received assistance from China on a regular basis.

In providing assistance to Africa, we have adhered to the principles of equality and mutual benefit, stressing practical results and keeping pace with the times, without attaching any political conditions, with a view to helping African countries build up capacity for self-development. We have thus created a unique form of South-South cooperation.

China has always attached importance to and supported NEPAD. The priority areas of China-Africa cooperation are largely consistent with NEPAD's priority areas of agriculture, infrastructure, construction and human resources development. China-Africa cooperation has made and will continue to make positive contributions to the implementation of NEPAD.

As an active response to the call to roll back malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, China undertook effective cooperation with African countries in combating malaria. Over the past three years, China has built 30 malaria prevention and treatment centres in African countries and provided artemisinin anti-malaria medicines worth ¥190 million, or about $30 million, contributing in no small measure to the implementation of the Global Malaria Action Plan.

There is a saying in Chinese that just as distance will test a horse's strength, so will time reveal a person's heart. Going forward, whatever the future vicissitudes in the world situation may be, the friendship of the Chinese people for the African people will remain the same, and our determination to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with Africa and achieve common development will endure. China will as always support the implementation of NEPAD to help Africa realize its tremendous potential and enable the African people to truly benefit from global economic and social development.

Mrs. Jusu (Sierra Leone): Sierra Leone fully associates itself with the statements made by the

representatives of Kenya and Argentina on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, respectively. We join other delegations in thanking the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and forward-looking reports. My delegation further expresses its appreciation to the Special Adviser on Africa, Under-Secretary-General Cheick Sidi Diarra, and his dedicated team for their advisory and advocacy work in promoting Africa's development agenda.

We are reviewing reports on the progress of implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/66/202), the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/66/214) and Decade to Roll Back Malaria (A/66/169), at a very crucial and challenging moment in global peace and security as well as the global economic architecture.

The tenth anniversary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) provides an opportunity for deeper reflection on the success and challenges in actualizing Africa's transformation agenda and how to leverage the various opportunities to advance sustainable development in Africa. Clearly, the entire global community is grappling with the deepening effect of an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, which undoubtedly is having a much graver impact on the developing world. In particular, the least developed countries, most of which are in Africa, remain challenged by the task of attaining internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by the target date of 2015.

Despite the gloom, there are visible prospects on the horizon. With the support of the international community, significant progress has been made in fostering the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. With accelerated growth over the past decade, improvement in governance, the spectre of conflict receding and improvement in leadership, it is clear that Africa is at a critical turning point. Steady progress has also been recorded in malaria control and prevention mechanisms, with many households sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets.

As a further commitment, some African Heads of State, including the President of Sierra Leone, have committed to achieving the Secretary-General's goal of ensuring universal access to malaria control interventions and launched the African Leaders Malaria Alliance with the goal of ending preventable malaria deaths by 2015.

The integration of NEPAD into the African Union is a milestone in advancing the socio-economic transformation agenda of the continent. It provides a window for strategic partnership to explore areas of cooperation to address such global challenges as the debt issue, climate change, trade and regional integration and sustainable development. We are encouraged by the ongoing implementation of NEPAD projects ranging from the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, infrastructure, the environment, gender mainstreaming, education and training in information and communication technologies.

At the level of governance, advances in the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism have demonstrated the continent's resolve and commitment in promoting democracy, good governance, peace and stability in the continent. Worthy of note and commendation is its system of early warning of impending threats to peace and stability in Africa.

In order to build on these gains and further strengthen our development strides, it is in the best interest of the African countries to increase domestic savings and lessen dependence on foreign aid. In that regard, foreign direct investment aimed at creating public-private partnerships and a vibrant private sector remains a viable option in addressing unemployment and underemployment, as well as in promoting socio-economic development. Among the key strategic issues, it is important to support continental resource mobilization and public-private partnerships to finance the implementation of NEPAD.

African Governments and national and regional institutions, including the regional economic communities, need strengthened development roles to support the promotion of intra-Africa trade and other key objectives. In that regard, my delegation calls upon the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to focus the next decade on implementation aimed at improving Africa's global standing and on improving the linkages with the continent's regional economic communities. The decision taken at the fourteenth African Union Assembly in February 2010 to integrate

NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union added further impetus to the role of NEPAD as the continent's flagship development programme.

The establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as both a technical body of the African Union to replace the NEPAD secretariat and as the main institutional vehicle to deliver NEPAD's vision and agenda was also a significant milestone.

On our part as a country, despite the present food and economic crises, Sierra Leone has made tremendous progress in implementing its agenda for change which is aligned with the Joint Vision of the United Nations Family for Sierra Leone. That development and the peacebuilding framework have set clear priorities targeting the drivers of growth and necessary conditions for human development in key areas such as energy, agriculture, infrastructure, health, youth unemployment and education. The strategies for delivering those priorities include, among other things, improving public service capacities and enhancing public and private sector partnerships and our domestic financial system. In that regard, we are intensifying our cooperation in the context of triangular and South-South cooperation.

There is an increasing awareness that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries themselves. The African Union and the subregional organizations have undertaken to strengthen their capacity in conflict prevention and resolution. They are also taking the lead in peacekeeping operations on the continent.

The peaceful independence referendum in Southern Sudan, the adoption of a new Constitution in Kenya, the transition of Guinea and Niger from military to civilian rule, resolving the post-elections crisis in Ivory Coast, responding to the humanitarian situation caused by drought in the Horn of Africa, actively seeking a peaceful resolution to the uprisings in some parts of North Africa, and the peacekeeping efforts in Darfur and Somalia are clear indications of the continent's preparedness to rise to the occasion, with the much-needed support of the international community and the United Nations.

While these efforts are ongoing, we are also witnessing a new wave of challenges involving violent protests and uprisings, transnational organized crime and narcotic drug trafficking, piracy and issues of governance, human rights and corruption. Furthermore, while the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger remains the main development challenge, most African countries are also grappling with the problems of the youth bulge and unemployment, climate change and inadequate productive capacity.

Those challenges frustrate efforts by African countries to achieve the MDGs. Coordinated partnerships must therefore be forged to strengthen capacities to respond to crises and security threats associated with the above challenges, particularly in conflict and post-conflict countries, for such partnerships remain vital in ensuring durable peace.

In this connection my delegation commends the comprehensive review, requested in 2010, of the implementation of the 1998 recommendations of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in the light of new and emerging issues affecting human security in Africa. My delegation notes the policy proposals and recommendations in that report of the Secretary-General (A/66/214).

The Doha Round remains stalled. Various international commitments, including those made at Monterrey and Gleneagles, are yet to be fulfilled. Slower progress is recorded in addressing poverty reduction, unemployment, environmental sustainability and most health-related goals. Moreover, factors such as the additional burden imposed by the adverse impact of the global financial, food and energy crises, climate change and weak employment growth on the continent have constrained achievement of the MDGs.

We therefore call upon our partners to intensify their efforts. First, distorting trade barriers must be eliminated by promoting and facilitating market access to developing countries, especially the least developed countries. Secondly, we ask them to deliver on their commitment to achieve the official development assistance target of between 0.15 and 0.7 per cent for the developing and least developed countries, respectively. Thirdly, the unsustainable debt burden of heavily indebted poor countries must be addressed.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Sierra Leone's commitment to furthering the objectives of NEPAD: the promotion of good governance, sustainable peace and development on the continent.

Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/66/202), on the implementation of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/66/214), and on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa (A/66/169).

I wish to align myself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the African Group.

The adoption of NEPAD, 10 years ago, embodied Africa's common resolve to address the dual scourges of poverty and marginalization that have characterized our continent for decades, and to do so through an African-owned common vision and action plan that was rightly based on our needs and priorities. That vision was based on accountability and regional complementarity.

As a founding member of the NEPAD initiative, Egypt is proud of the major strides the African countries have made over the past decade in the main thematic areas of the NEPAD agenda, particularly in agriculture and food security, regional integration, infrastructure, human development, information and communication technology, the empowerment of women and capacity-building.

By the same token, the establishment and operationalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism — which includes 30 countries and represents more than 75 per cent of the total African population — is another manifestation of Africa's commitment to promote good governance and respect for human rights and democratic values, which go hand in hand with other achievements in the developmental fields.

Our commemoration of the tenth anniversary of NEPAD provides an important opportunity to reflect not only on the achievements of NEPAD but also on the challenges facing us and how to address them. In this regard, Egypt believes that in order to consolidate the progress made towards achieving NEPAD's main objectives — reducing poverty, putting Africa on a sustainable development path, increasing Africa's integration into the world economy and empowering women — African Governments and their development partners must step up their efforts in a way that leads to stronger partnerships and continued economic growth in the interest of all sectors of society.

Achieving NEPAD objectives undoubtedly requires fairer trade terms for Africa, alleviating the debt burden, increasing foreign direct investment inflows to Africa and addressing the marginalization of the continent in international economic decision-making processes. Africa's development partners must also fully meet the official development assistance and other aid commitments they have made in various forums, including the Group of Eight Gleneagles Summit, the General Assembly in the political declaration on Africa's development needs (resolution 63/1), the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries — the majority of which are African countries.

In this context, we look forward to the consultations on the establishment of a review mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa in order to make such a mechanism operational by the end of the Assembly's sixty-sixth session, as agreed in resolution 65/284.

In the same vein, Egypt attaches great importance to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and stresses that its outcome should fully take into consideration the enormous developmental challenges faced by Africa.

Over the past months, Africa has experienced profound changes that we believe are evidence that we are on the right path towards freedom, democracy and social justice. The democratic change in Côte d'Ivoire, the changes moving towards freedom and respect for human rights in North Africa, the transition in Guinea and Niger, and most recently the peaceful transfer of power in Zambia are manifestations of our continent's commitment to fulfil its obligations regardless of the many challenges it faces.

However, if our continent is to continue on this path with resolve and persistence, more concerted national, regional and global efforts must be directed towards addressing the multiple and interlinked challenges that still exist in Africa. These include intra-State conflicts, social exclusion, unconstitutional changes of Governments, election-related violence,

illegal exploitation of natural resources, terrorism, piracy, food security, climate change, and illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons and drugs.

As the interlinkage between security, development and respect for human rights has become the fundamental basis for the work of the United Nations, Egypt concurs with the Secretary-General that there is a need to refocus existing development strategies in order to establish stronger institutional frameworks that can better tackle the interconnected challenges of peace and development. In particular, more attention must be given to the problems faced by the youth, who are the leading force of social dynamism and development in our continent. Egypt underlines the need for all stakeholders to adopt a comprehensive approach that focuses all their existing tools in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding on addressing the causes of conflicts, including the socio-economic engines of those conflicts.

In this context, Egypt commends the increasing partnership between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, which has proven to be of significant importance in addressing many challenges to peace and security in Africa, particularly in Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Niger. Egypt believes that the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union will positively impact AU-United Nations cooperation in all areas of peace, security and development.

The international community took considerable steps during the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, that resulted in the successful elimination of the disease in nearly half of malaria-infected countries. In addition, tangible reductions in the infection rate were achieved in a number of other countries as a result of the programmes implemented in cooperation with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. As a result of the increase in available funding for such programmes in Africa, access to prevention and treatment was improved for nearly two thirds of Africans.

However, the continuing proliferation of the disease in many countries reaffirms the need to continue support and to ensure the sustainability of funding so that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved by 2015, especially Millennium Development Goal 6 and especially in Africa, where the risk of infection is the highest in the world.

The eradication of malaria requires a comprehensive approach in which the implementation of national prevention and treatment programmes is complemented with successful, sustainable development efforts. This is particularly true with regard to revamping the infrastructure of the economic, educational and health sectors of African countries. This would lead to early detection of and treatment for diseases. We must spread awareness and prepare trained personnel, and that cannot be financed by the African countries alone.

Egypt reaffirms the vital role played by regional organizations and initiatives in this connection and the need for access to the required assistance. In particular, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance initiative has helped sustain the national efforts of African Governments, particularly as regards mobilizing international support for the implementation of prevention and treatment programmes and promoting preventive measures to combat the spread of malaria.

The success of efforts to combat malaria is directly linked to the need to resolve the trade-related problems connected to the intellectual property rights of existing malaria detection means and medications. The international community has a responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of the efforts to eliminate malaria and thwart the risk of its continued proliferation in order to realize Millennium Development Goal 6 by 2015.

Mr. Mashabane (South Africa): This year, we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which is the blueprint for the socio-economic development of Africa's 1 billion people and a vision for Africa's renewal, with the primary objective of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable growth and development.

When taking stock of the level and rate of success of cooperation within NEPAD, there is no doubt that it has made an important contribution to accelerating the pace of development in African countries. However, the success of NEPAD is threatened by the ongoing financial and economic crisis, the energy crisis, the food security crisis and the challenges of climate change.

Africa currently faces a humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa, which because of drought is experiencing the most severe food crisis in the world today. Most African countries remain off track in terms of achieving Millennium Development Goal 1, on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, due to the food security crisis.

In Africa, agriculture is the primary source of food. The African leaders have established the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which is a framework for agricultural development. The African leaders have committed to raising the share of their national budget allocated to agriculture to 10 per cent and, through CAADP, have called for annual agricultural growth rates of 6 per cent.

The international community needs, therefore, to support these efforts by the African leaders by delivering on their commitments, under the 2009 L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security, to mobilize $20 billion over three years for agricultural development, and those made at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security to increase aid substantially so that Africa can attain the objectives contained in the CAADP.

Africa has increasingly emphasized the importance of infrastructure for both economic growth and social development. In this context, the African Governments have made commitments in energy, transport, water and information and communications technology under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa to strengthen national planning frameworks and reform the regulatory environment to improve the efficiency of existing infrastructure.

His Excellency the President of the Republic South Africa, Jacob Zuma, has been elected to lead this infrastructure development programme. South Africa is doing its best for the African continent to achieve improved access to integrated regional and continental infrastructure networks and services. South Africa calls for more investment in agriculture and infrastructure on the continent.

We also call for strengthening the role of the United Nations system in supporting NEPAD cooperation. It is vital, as we do so, that the international community come on board so as to enhance the NEPAD vision for Africa's development.

The world has made remarkable progress in the fight against malaria. Statistics indicate that globally, malaria deaths have dropped greatly. However, much more still needs to be done, especially on our continent, Africa, where malaria is affecting many young children and pregnant women. Over 90 per cent of deaths occur in Africa. Moreover, the economic impact on the continent is huge, as an estimated $12 billion in productivity is lost annually.

We commend the work done by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership to coordinate global action against malaria. A number of new agencies end initiatives have contributed immensely to the fight against malaria, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States President's Malaria Initiative, the World Bank Booster Programme for Malaria in Africa, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Drug Purchase Facility, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance and the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Malaria. We need to develop more such alliances to conquer the scourge of malaria. We should further strengthen private and public sector partnerships and not leave civil society behind in our endeavours.

Some of the most important partnerships are those between neighbouring countries. In the Southern African region, there are a few cross-border initiatives that have been very successful. In the Lubombo Initiative, a cross-border partnership between Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa, malaria incidence rates have dropped by 85 to 90 per cent, with the number of deaths reduced by 90 per cent.

In the MOZIZA Project, a partnership between Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa, a significant reduction in malaria cases has been realized for the period 2000-2010 by using indoor residual spraying with DDT as the main strategy. So far, DDT has been found to be the most effective agent in the control of the malaria vector. Countries in the Southern African region that adopted the use of DDT in indoor residual spraying have significantly reduced the number of malaria cases by up to 80 per cent; four of them have reached the pre-elimination stage. Vector control is vital for the African region to deal effectively with malaria.

Other strategies that can help advance the success of malaria control include investment in new technologies, such as rapid diagnostic kits, long-lasting

insecticide-treated nets, and effective anti-malaria drugs such as vaccines, all made available at affordable cost. Some countries have done well by taking additional measures, such as waiving taxes and tariffs for the products needed for malaria control.

Working together, we can achieve our goal of eliminating malaria by 2015, so that all our people can enjoy the high standard of physical and mental health that they deserve. We can do this successfully through increased access to prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Russia has consistently called for greater involvement by the United Nations in addressing the challenges facing Africa. We firmly believe that without the active, full-fledged engagement of African countries in international affairs it will be impossible to launch fruitful cooperation on a global scale and to establish an integral and stable global security system based on the supremacy of international law.

In order to make this a reality, we need first to overcome the most acute problems that prevent the normal economic and social development of the African continent, namely, poverty, famine and disease. We call for a comprehensive and integrated approach to a solution, and for an effective global partnership to achieve these goals based on a combination of international support with efficient measures by Africans themselves.

In recent years, African countries have started to take a more active part in global political, economic and humanitarian processes. They play a notable role in the United Nations and other multilateral forums, making significant contributions to the development of coordinated approaches to resolving key contemporary problems. Africa has confidently embarked on a path towards broad-based transformation and modernization. Much has been done to speed up growth rates and strengthen political, economic and cultural unity. We call for more active and coordinated efforts on the part of Governments, international financial institutions, the business community and non-governmental organizations to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on schedule.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an initiative of the African Union that represents the aspirations of the countries of that continent to determine their future independently and assume basic responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, economic governance, the sustainable use of natural resources, the fight against corruption and the effective use of development assistance.

Russia regards NEPAD as an essential benchmark and instrument for ensuring the sustainable development of Africa and actively participates in coordinated efforts to provide comprehensive assistance both bilaterally and within the framework of existing international mechanisms, including the Group of Eight Africa Action Plan.

One of the major areas of Russia's assistance to Africa is the alleviation of the debt burden of countries of that region. As of late 2010, Russia has written off African debt in the amount of $20 billion. We are presently holding consultations with a number of African countries on signing inter-Governmental agreements to use that forgiven debt to finance development projects. The estimated total remaining debt to be cancelled is over $500 million. By the end of 2011, Russia will contribute $50 million to the World Bank Trust Fund to support vulnerable countries, first and foremost in sub-Saharan Africa.

Russian humanitarian aid to the countries of the region totalled $6 million in 2010. African countries enjoy broad trade preferences. Traditional export products of the least developed countries, most of which are in Africa, have been exempted from import customs duties in Russia.

We also provide substantial assistance to African countries in the form of professional training. Currently, more than 4,500 Africans are studying in Russian universities. Approximately 50 per cent of them are on federal budget scholarships. In the 2010-2011 academic year, the quota of Government scholarships for Africa was increased. From 2008 to 2012, we will have allocated $42.9 million to the World Bank programme to improve the quality of basic education in developing countries, including in Africa.

Substantial assistance is provided to African countries in the area of public health. The total amount of our voluntary contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria reached $40 million. By the end of 2011, we will have contributed $20 million towards the implementation of the World Bank programme to combat malaria, and an additional $18 million to the World Health

Organization for the elimination of polio in Africa. In 2010-2011, Russia continues to participate in supporting the budget of the Secretariat of the Africa Partnership Forum in the amount of $200,000 annually.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, Russia makes a significant contribution to the elaboration of strategic policy and practical measures for the international community to strengthen peace and security in the region. We participate in many United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. We have significantly expanded our training programmes for African peacekeepers and law enforcement officers. We believe that a key factor in ensuring a prosperous future for the African continent is the prevention and resolution of armed conflict. We note with satisfaction the active work of the African Union to create an African standby force and an early warning system for conflicts. We welcome the open dialogue between the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the resolution of acute crisis situations.

Those positive developments clearly require additional support. A more durable peace on the continent requires active involvement on the part of Africans. Measures need to be taken to combat illicit armed factions, to strengthen good neighbourly relations and to expand cooperation in order to ensure border security. Borders should be strengthened to prevent the spillover of conflicts and the infiltration of weapons and mercenaries, as well as to suppress mass violations of international human rights law and impunity for crimes against humanity.

Russia provides consistent political support to the relevant efforts by the African community and is prepared to further assist in strengthening Africa's crisis prevention capacity. We are certain that all impediments to the transformation of Africa into a continent of security and stability and sustainable development can be overcome on the solid basis of international law, African unity and the solidarity of the friends of Africa with African nations. Naturally, Russia considers itself a friend of Africa.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): The great Rabbi Hillel once declared, "If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" As we take up this important debate, I am reminded of his famous words. At this critical moment, the international community must move forward with the urgency of Rabbi Hillel's call, actively partnering with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to build a brighter future for the African continent.

Today Africa stands at a turning point. Significant progress has been made in the continent's development. However, while we see the promise of great opportunities on the horizon, the challenges of the present endure. We continue to witness drought and famine, hunger and poverty, conflict and instability. All of these remain significant obstacles to unlocking the vast potential of Africa and its people.

My country has been deeply engaged in African development for more than five decades. In 1958, Golda Meir, then serving as Israel's Foreign Minister, undertook a historic visit to the newly independent States of Africa. She saw first-hand that many of those countries faced development challenges similar to Israel's, such as a difficult climate and poor farming conditions.

Golda Meir resolved to share Israel's growing expertise, driven by her Zionist values and the spirit of what we call *tikkun olam*, the Jewish principle that calls on us to "mend the world" and make it a better place. At that time, Israel was in its infancy. We were a developing nation facing a range of overwhelming challenges. Yet she saw assistance to the newly independent nations of Africa as an imperative. She said that like them, we had shaken off foreign rule; like them, we had to learn for ourselves how to reclaim the land, how to increase the yields of our crops, how to irrigate, how to live together, and how to defend ourselves.

Thousands of Israeli experts of every sort — scientists, doctors, engineers, teachers and irrigation experts — set out for the continent. Among them were my parents, who brought me with them. As a young child in what was then Tanganyika, I remember vividly how Israelis worked hand in hand with their African counterparts to share our knowledge. They worked together on the ground, out in the fields of farms, in the halls of schools, and in the corridors of hospitals. The connections that were forged in those days have blossomed into an extensive programme of cooperation overseen by MASHAV, Israel's agency for international cooperation.

That programme has expanded as Israel has advanced on its own journey from a developing nation to a member of the Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development. In Israel, we have transitioned from growing oranges to producing Orange mobile phones, and from cultivating apples to designing Apple computers.

Allow me to highlight a few examples of Israel's development cooperation in Africa today.

In Ghana, Israel administers a network of community-based prenatal and healthy-baby clinics, known as *tipat chalav*, which is Hebrew for "a drop of milk". Initially developed for mothers and children in Israel, these clinics have proved highly effective in reducing child mortality and improving maternal health in Ghana.

Israel has focused extensively on education in Africa. In 2010 alone, MASHAV trained more 1,200 people from more than 35 African countries, both in Israel and in their own countries. We are also providing support for United Nations educational programmes such as UNESCO's teacher-training initiative for sub-Saharan Africa.

Israel continues to provide immediate relief to African nations following major crises, such as the acute humanitarian situation now facing the Horn of Africa. In response to the crisis, Israel contributed to the World Food Programme, supporting the delivery of food packages to Somali refugees in Kenya. We have also donated funds to the Ethiopian Government, which have been used to purchase locally produced food aid for Somali refugees there. To address the long-term challenges posed by the drought, MASHAV continues to expand its programmes that have a specific focus on agriculture and food production. For example, today Israel is partnering with Ghana and Germany to improve the efficiency of smallholder Ghanaian citrus farmers. That project combines agricultural assistance, capacity-building and elements of microfinance and microcredit.

Another highly successful Israeli project is the Techno-agricultural Innovation for Poverty Alleviation programme (TIPA). It has been implemented in a number of African countries, including as part of a triangular partnership with Italy in Senegal. TIPA relies on relatively simple, low-cost drip irrigation techniques that allow farmers to produce crops year-round and improve the quality of their fruits and vegetables.

The results of the project speak for themselves. Farmers have moved from poverty to self-sufficiency. Hunger has been drastically reduced in many communities. Rural women have found new opportunities for empowerment. Projects such as TIPA highlight the importance of sharing agricultural technology to promote sustainable development. To bring focus to this effort, Israel will be submitting its biennial draft resolution on agricultural technology for development to the Second Committee this year.

NEPAD has served as an invaluable framework for advancing major goals on the African continent, spurring important progress. While African nations have primary responsibility for their social and economic development, the international community must support and facilitate those efforts, driven by our common destiny and common humanity.

As we take in the encouraging progress that has been made and resolve to meet the challenges ahead, let us be big in our dreams and bold in our actions. Golda Meir's clear vision of the fundamental connection between the people of Israel and the people of Africa endures. In the same spirit as the early Zionist pioneers who left their newly reborn nation to help plant the seeds of new nations in Africa, Israelis continue to stand with our brothers and sisters on the continent as they seize the promise of new opportunities.

In Hebrew we say *hineni*, meaning "Here I am". On Africa's journey towards growth and prosperity, Israel is here — as a supporter, as a partner and as a friend.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation wishes at the outset to congratulate Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser on his election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. We firmly believe that thanks to his wisdom and skills, we will achieve the objectives we have set for this session.

Development efforts in Africa since the launching of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have not lived up to our expectations. We have reached the midway point in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), slated for achievement by 2015; however, Africa remains the only continent that continues to face major obstacles in eliminating poverty and want — hence the need to redouble our efforts in the area of international

cooperation to implement NEPAD projects and to honour the commitments made. That needs to be done as swiftly as possible in order to permit the African continent to achieve its sustainable development goals.

The response to Africa's development needs, the evaluation of the implementation of commitments, and addressing existing challenges are all positive steps towards strengthening NEPAD. The report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of and international support for NEPAD (A/66/202) underscores the commitment of Heads of State and Government and the United Nations to focus on the needs of Africa, as set forth in the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and reflected in the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Above and beyond the harnessing of financial, human and technical resources for the elimination of poverty, hunger and underdevelopment, we need to translate our commitments into concrete action. In this connection, we call on the international community to honour its commitments to eradicating poverty and strengthening sustainable development in the context of a new, fair and comprehensive world economic order that takes into account the needs of developing countries, especially in Africa, and enables them to gain access to international markets.

The role of regional organizations in peacebuilding in Africa is crucial to the cause of building lasting peace, particularly in post-conflict countries. In this connection, we call for the full implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, which is designed, inter alia, to enhance Africa's peacekeeping capacities. We also call for the consolidation of related mechanisms in the context of NEPAD.

Peace is a prerequisite for economic and social development. The Sudan has extensive experience in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Resource-sharing arrangements are essential components of the comprehensive peace agreements in South Sudan, East Sudan and Darfur.

Paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/66/214) refers to the situation in Abyei. Let me say that, since the entry of the Sudanese Armed Forces into Abyei, security and stability have been restored and there have been no incidents of destabilization there. The Government of the Sudan is committed to implementing Security Council resolution 1990 (2011) on the deployment of forces in Abyei and is cooperating with all parties to facilitate the deployment of Ethiopian peacekeepers in the region. In this way, the situation in Abyei can be kept under control until a definitive peaceful settlement is reached that enables all inhabitants of the region, regardless of their ethnic origin, to engage in economic activities.

The report also mentions that military attacks in Southern Kordofan have led to large population displacements from that region. My delegation notes that the attacks were the result of clashes between northern and southern rebel movements that were triggered when the leader of the southern forces lost the gubernatorial election in Southern Kordofan. The rebels took up arms against the population, which indeed resulted in large displacements. The Sudanese Armed Forces then intervened in accordance with our Constitution and national duty, with a view to restoring peace in the south. In the wake of these events, the displaced persons have returned to their homes and resumed their agricultural activities for the development of the region.

We call on the United Nations to persuade the rebels to honour their commitments under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, return to negotiations, demobilize and lay down their arms in order to reach a peaceful settlement, which is a prerequisite for countries in conflict to achieve sustainable development within the framework of NEPAD. In this context, we reiterate our unwavering commitment to the peaceful settlement of all conflicts through negotiation.

Turning now to agenda item 13, "Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa", as the Assembly knows, malaria affects a very large number of people; more than 3.3 billion — half the world's population — have been exposed to this serious disease. The Sudan is also affected by malaria, registering more than 7 million cases a year. According to scientific studies, the negative impact of climate change has increased the prevalence of the disease. The increase in temperatures is leading to a longer life cycle for the mosquitoes that carry the parasite. The economic and social impact of malaria has been great in my country. Consequently, we have developed a national anti-malaria strategy and established a special

unit to control the spread and monitor the progress of the disease.

Let me conclude by saying that the economic slowdown worldwide, the increase in food prices, and climate change are all factors that have led to slower progress in the implementation of NEPAD and in fighting malaria, and are hampering the attainment of the MDGs by 2015. Our development partners must therefore step up their efforts to honour their commitments with a view to resolving the debt morass in which many African countries are mired. Many African countries, especially post-conflict countries, continue to suffer from high indebtedness and are consequently experiencing slower sustainable development.

Mr. Husain (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada once again welcomes the opportunity to participate in this debate. The African continent has enormous potential, and we note with satisfaction its recent remarkable economic growth, higher than that of many other regions of the world. The significant progress Africa has made, especially in strengthening democracy and promoting peace and security, is a sign of a promising future. Canada is also encouraged by the maturation of African institutions, which promotes regional integration and security.

However, Canada also recognizes that African countries continue to face major challenges. Much remains to be done to work with African countries in order to address those challenges and assist them in meeting their development objectives.

Canada is doing its part to help Africa achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Almost half of Canada's bilateral development assistance has gone to Africa in recent years, and Canada has met its Group of Eight (G-8) commitment to double aid to Africa from the 2003-2004 levels to $2.1 billion. Furthermore, Canada has reached its commitment to double international assistance by the years 2010 to 2011 from the 2001-2002 levels, bringing Canada's total international assistance to approximately $5 billion. As part of the joint G-8 pledge on food security, Canada will more than double its investment in food security and sustainable agricultural development by providing $600 million in increased funding over three years, reaching $1.18 billion in overall funding. Canada has untied all its food aid.

As President of the G-8 in 2010, Canada ensured that African issues were a key part of the agenda. Consultations with African countries in the lead up to the G-8 Summit helped to shape the Muskoka Initiative on maternal, newborn and child health, which will generate funds reaching more than $7 billion, with most of Canada's contribution to the Initiative being allocated to Africa.

In addition, private-sector investment, which plays a crucial role in Africa's development, has added to Canada's traditional aid to Africa. Export Development Canada has added its support for businesses with over Can$1.3 billion worth of business in sub-Saharan Africa. More precisely, it has assisted 194 Canadian companies in 38 countries in Africa in 2010. That same year, Canadian bilateral trade with Africa reached almost $13 billion in 2010, a 72.5 per cent increase over the past five years.

When it comes to corporate social responsibility, Canada not only encourages Canadian companies to abide by strict standards, it insists on it. To further encourage Canadian investment in Africa, we need to encourage our African partners to continue to work toward reforming their business environments to create more transparent rules and better governance.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada sees the development of key African multilateral institutions, such as the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, as vehicles to help achieve an enabling environment for stability, regional integration, and socio-economic development.

Canada strongly supports the African Peer Review Mechanism as a key initiative in promoting African ownership and accountability for democratic governance and economic management, and we have contributed over $5 million to the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund.

Canada also maintains a strong commitment to regional and multilateral initiatives to advance global malaria prevention and control efforts. In September 2010, Prime Minister Harper announced that, with our contribution of $540 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Canada's contribution to date will rise to more than $1.5 billion. That is the single largest contribution by Canada to a global health organization.

Canada continues to engage with our African counterparts to work towards solutions to protracted conflicts across the continent, both through direct bilateral contacts and through our engagement in support for continental and regional African institutions such as the African Union (AU). Although challenges remain, those organizations are increasingly demonstrating clear capacity and leadership to address peace and security challenges on the continent.

Despite the peaceful secession of South Sudan on 9 July 2011, the security situation in both the Sudan and South Sudan is fragile, particularly along their shared border. The contested region of Abyei remains a deep concern, while devastating conflict has re-emerged in the border states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, severely affecting over 300,000 people. Humanitarian access to affected populations in those two states remains severely constrained. International support continues to be necessary to address outstanding North-South issues, the fragile political situation in both countries and the conflicts in Darfur and along the border.

Since 2006, Canada has contributed over $885 million in support of peace and humanitarian objectives in the two Sudans, including support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process, as well as for three Security Council-mandated peacekeeping missions. Canada fully supports the considerable engagement and contribution that the African Union and African countries are making to enhance peace and security in the two Sudans, most notably through the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

In the Great Lakes region, Canada continues to support regional peace and stability through the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), which implements regional solutions to deal with the complex challenges there. As co-chair of the Group of Friends and Special Envoys to the ICGLR, Canada is a strong supporter of the Lusaka Declaration endorsed by the ICGLR heads of State in December 2010, emphasizing the current momentum in the fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

Canada's contributions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo have totalled $350 million since 2006, including for humanitarian and long-term development assistance, support to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and support for the 2011 elections.

Finally, Canada remains greatly concerned by the humanitarian crisis arising from the severe drought that is being felt throughout the Horn of Africa. So far in 2011, Canada has contributed more than $72 million to humanitarian agencies for emergency lifesaving assistance to those in need in the region. In addition, in July this year, Canada established the East Africa Drought Relief Fund, to which the Government of Canada pledged to contribute one dollar for every dollar an individual Canadian donated to a registered Canadian charity responding to the drought between 6 July and 16 September 2011. The preliminary tally, as of October 4, is estimated to be just over $70 million, with total contribution amounts to be verified by mid-October. Once that is completed, the Government of Canada will contribute an equivalent amount to the Fund.

Canada is concerned by the problems that confront Somalia, including lawlessness, piracy and the longstanding conflict, which have further exacerbated the effects of the drought. Canada has been actively involved in efforts to bring stability to Somalia, including a contribution of $1 million to the African Union Mission in Somalia Trust Fund.

In closing, despite the many economic and social development challenges they face, African countries have made great strides in recent years. Canada looks forward to continuing to work with our African partners and the international community towards realizing Africa's full potential.

Mr. Sammis (United States of America): The United States would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sidi Diarra, and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, for organizing the 7 October panel discussion on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Millennium Development Goals, and yesterday's briefing in advance of today's General Assembly consideration of those topics.

NEPAD is an important African-owned and African-led initiative for eradicating poverty and putting African economies on a path of sustainable growth. The United States fully supports the common

vision of African States for achieving the NEPAD goals and objectives, especially in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, education, health, the empowerment of women, and the environment. We also welcome the efforts of the United Nations, the African Union, the African Development Bank, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) secretariat, African subregional organizations and international partners in assisting African States to fully implement NEPAD.

The United States welcomes the progress made in the past year by the organizations and supporters of NEPAD in areas critical to economic growth and sustainable development highlighted in the report (A/66/202). We support Africa's efforts to enhance its economic growth and enjoy the benefits of integration into the global economy. Alongside an enabling business environment, progress in developing Africa's infrastructure is especially important to private-sector economic growth and development. We commend the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency for its efforts, alongside those of the African Union, the United Nations and the African Development Bank, to drive and secure infrastructure gains across the continent. We encourage NEPAD to continue its review of infrastructure projects, and its work in line with its strategic objectives.

Food security remains an urgent challenge in Africa. The United States is committed to strengthening agricultural development in Africa, and has committed $3.5 billion worldwide over three years through its global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future. The United States is encouraged by the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and NEPAD's efforts to increase the number of countries creating country compacts so as to meet their agricultural investment goals and target growth rates. Our Feed the Future initiative draws on CAADP principles and progress, both of which are essential to providing security against famine and malnutrition.

The crisis in the Horn of Africa is the most severe humanitarian emergency in the world today. Tens of thousands, mostly children, have already died, and 750,000 more Somalis are at risk of death in coming months, unless the international humanitarian community can get access to those in need of critical assistance. NEPAD's efforts serve to mitigate the impact of the current crisis and provide insurance against such crises occurring in the future.

While Africa is host to the largest number of least-developed countries (LDCs), some African LDCs have shown strong growth over the past decade. To ensure that progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is sustained, we must support well-governed African institutions that promote policies enabling economies to generate broad-based, sustained economic growth and employment. Such policies should include accountability, transparency, investment in an entrepreneur-friendly business climate, strengthened indigenous capacity for innovation, investment in women and girls, and attention to basic services, including health and education.

With regard to meeting the MDGs in Africa by 2015 and improving food security on the continent, the United States supports an improved, comprehensive monitoring mechanism. Such a mechanism should build on existing processes and add value by leveraging the membership and contributions of the United Nations, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General during the previous session of the General Assembly (A/65/152). Such a mechanism should be practical, effective and cost-neutral. It would require the combined efforts of the United Nations system, the African Development Bank, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other African institutions to ensure comprehensive and authoritative results.

The United States calls on the United Nations, the African Union and NEPAD to work together to ensure the creation of a results-driven process. The Organization must ensure that the more than 25 United Nations agencies working alongside the African Union and NEPAD are making efficient and effective use of their resources and are responding to the priorities of the African Union and NEPAD. We expect that the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union will work together to strengthen the regional coordination mechanism. It is also important that the African Peer Review Mechanism continue to function as envisioned. The APRM has tremendous potential for advancing good governance and socio-economic development in Africa, and we actively encourage continuation of the peer review process over the coming year.

Today the Assembly is also addressing the agenda item on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria. The United States is committed to addressing the prevention and

treatment of malaria in order to improve the health and well-being of citizens living in malaria-endemic settings, particularly young children and pregnant women, who are most affected by this devastating disease. We further recognize the negative impact of malaria on household incomes, economic and social development and political stability in affected countries.

Through its Global Health Initiative, the United States will continue to lead in the fight against this and other diseases by focusing on strengthening health systems and on broader health challenges, including child and maternal health, family planning and neglected tropical diseases. We are pleased to be a leader in the support for malaria-control programmes through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), and our contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Through the PMI, which is a core component of the President's Global Health Initiative, we have made a $5 billion, six-year commitment. So far, we have spent $300 million in 2009, $500 million in 2010 and $618 million in 2011. These significant funding increases have allowed the PMI to expand, and it is now providing malaria prevention or treatment measures to more than 50 million people in 19 focus countries in Africa.

We work with host Governments, international partners, NGOs, the private sector and faith-based and community groups to deliver indoor residual spraying, distribute insecticide-treated bed nets, ensure preventive malaria treatment for expectant mothers, provide prompt and accurate diagnosis and treatment of malarial illness, and build the capacity of national malaria control programmes. The United States contribution to the Global Fund supports in-country capacity-building and strengthening of health systems, as well as direct service delivery.

We encourage all donor and recipient nations to support global malaria control efforts through appropriate financial contributions and stronger political commitments. We urge affected nations, especially those in Africa, to increase their own domestic spending on malaria control as part of their overall plans to boost the share of their national budgets devoted to health.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Only yesterday, 10 October, our island commemorated a central event in the formation of the Cuban nation. We celebrated the beginning, in 1868, of our first war of independence. That historic event was marked by one of the most transcendental acts of justice in our history, when Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, known as the father of the Cuban nation, freed his slaves.

Independence and the African heritage are thus indissolubly linked to the Cuban national identity. Originating in lands that today cover a large number of African countries, there came to our island more than a million and a half enslaved Africans of various ethnicities: Lucumi, Carabalí, Congolese, Ganga, Mandingo, Mina, Bibi, Yoruba. That is why the people and Government of Cuba consider so important the General Assembly's declaration, through resolution 64/169, of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent. Many seminars and conferences have attested to the importance of this for Cuba. In September, the Cuban people had the unique opportunity to celebrate two exceptional events: a meeting of filmmakers from Africa, the Caribbean and the diaspora, and the programming of the First Week of African Cinema, held in Havana. I am sure that the works from the African continent were shown in nearly all provinces of our country.

The Cuban people are the direct and natural heirs to Africa's gallantry, fearlessness and culture of resistance. For centuries they have heroically fought against numerous challenges and threats, which endure to this day. The deepest internationalist convictions of the Cuban Revolution have enabled our country to remain always on the side of the African peoples, from our unconditional support in the anti-colonial struggles to cooperation projects in many spheres of economic and social development.

More than 381,000 Cuban fighters fought for almost three decades to defend the integrity and sovereignty of our brother African nations, without asking for anything in exchange. They returned from Africa with only the bodies of their fallen comrades and the honour of having done their duty. Today more than 2,400 Cuban volunteers are serving in 35 African nations to promote their development in areas as diverse as public health, education, agriculture, sports and construction, among others.

Our country will continue to provide its human capital and experience to help our African brothers and sisters. In just the Comprehensive Health Programme, close to 1,120 Cuban doctors and technicians are

working in 23 African countries, providing services to more than 48 million people.

In the context of international cooperation, Cuba has various projects with a number of African countries to combat malaria. Cuba is collaborating in the production of vaccines, biological pest controls and biofertilizers. It is developing important measures in the plan to combat disease vectors, such as developing entomological maps for the early warning system in various African countries with which we maintain cooperation. Cuba is implementing programmes to develop biolarvicides in those countries, with advice from Cuban specialists.

More than 2,200 young people from 45 African countries are currently enrolled in our universities and polytechnic institutes. To date, more than 32,000 young people from that continent have graduated from Cuban schools with different specializations.

Cuba has always stood with Africa, and Africa has always stood with Cuba. The history of our relationship in the most diverse spheres is proof of that.

There is an intrinsic contradiction in the current international order. It is impossible to listen to certain bombastic speeches that attempt to tell us what our peoples should do, while they simultaneously force many of our countries to spend five times more resources to pay back shameful external debt than we spend on health and education programmes.

There must be an end to wars and military interventions supported by interventionist doctrines that violate international law and are intended primarily to guarantee control of Africa's mineral resources to the powerful multinationals of the developed countries. Rich countries, instead of continuing to bomb African soil, should once and for all meet their modest commitments for official development aid.

Moreover, it is high time to end the unjust system of patents and trade that is hindering the development of African nations. Cuba will continue to support the African Union and all regional cooperation mechanisms as they pursue their own solutions to African problems.

All Africa needs from the United Nations and the international community is a comprehensive focus on a solution to problems that relate to the peace, security and development of the continent. We are not calling for paternalism towards Africa, but rather equal opportunities as part of a fairer and more equitable international order.

The African people have the right to peace and sustainable development. That is what is needed for Africa and the rest of the developing nations, so that, in a peaceful context, we can meet the challenges that our people face. Above all, Africa needs and deserves solidarity and respect.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with resolution 2011 (XX), adopted on 11 October 1965, and decision 56/475 of 15 August 2002, I now call on the observer for the African Union.

Mr. Mayaki (African Union): Permit me first to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser on his election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. I also congratulate the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on his reappointment. On behalf of the Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), I hope his 10 years will contribute to the promotion of closer and more meaningful global cooperation and move forward the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

I am most honoured to address this body on the occasion of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of NEPAD. In July 2001, in Lusaka, African leaders took a major step towards inspiring change. It was a major milestone in Africa's transformation agenda.

As Africa's strategic framework for development and the flagship programme of the African Union, NEPAD is the embodiment of Africa's rebirth and renaissance. For 10 years, African countries have implemented comprehensive political and socio-economic reforms, driven at the continental level by the African Union. This is to achieve the overarching objective of placing Africa on the path of sustainable growth and development.

Africa has demonstrated remarkable resilience. We have nurtured and produced our own development agenda through the expression of NEPAD. We are resolved to achieve the full implementation of that agenda. Africa is taking full control and ownership of that development agenda, driven by the shared values of ownership, leadership and partnership. This is based

on the African Union vision of an integrated, forward-looking, prosperous, dynamic and peaceful Africa, representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

Since the turn of the millennium, Africa has recorded economic growth and made significant progress in political governance and macroeconomic performance. That growth, however, needs to be more inclusive. Indeed, Africans have been emboldened by that progress, through the wind of change that has contributed to shaping the new Africa. Under the platform of the African Union, the continental renewal strategy has purposefully addressed the development challenges of the past and is looking ahead to a new Africa. NEPAD has served as the catalyst for development. We have charted a new development pathway that represents a departure from the old development model. The reality is that Africa has changed, and is changing.

NEPAD remains active in changing the development paradigm on the continent. NEPAD is now fully integrated into the structures and processes of the African Union. The NEPAD Agency now serves as the technical body of the African Union. This institutionalization of NEPAD has given further impetus to the implementation of the NEPAD agenda.

The international community must therefore step up support for Africa's needs and priorities. Over the past decade, Africa adopted continental policy frameworks to accelerate development and regional integration. Through NEPAD, Africa is advancing good governance in all of its ramifications under the umbrella of the African Peer Review Mechanism, which began in 2003. This unique voluntary instrument of peer exchanges and review at the highest political level among 30 participating African countries is leading the way on governance reforms. Other top priorities have been clearly defined, for example in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. NEPAD is spearheading investment plans in agriculture and food security.

In the area of infrastructure, African leaders endorsed the African Union and NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative to promote political sponsorship in driving the implementation of national and regional infrastructure. In addition, we support African Governments in reinforcing development planning as a formidable tool for ensuring the sustainability of the gains made over the past decade in Africa.

What remains to be done is for development partners to continue to work together, and within the United Nations, to support the implementation of Africa's priorities. We must renew our efforts to send a powerful and positive message to the rest of the world that Africa is committed to its development agenda for transformation. The African Union and its NEPAD programme are part of that equation.

International partners remain fundamentally important to Africa. Promoting market access for African products and diversification are critical to achieving sustainable and lasting economic growth. We must work harder to change the current multilateral trading system towards a more equitable and fair regime. Significantly, emerging economies in the South have become increasingly strategic partners for Africa and have contributed to reducing its dependence on traditional export markets.

Specifically, trade negotiations under the Doha Development Round should be accelerated and tailored much more to meet the special needs of Africa. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an important source of growth, and African countries have undertaken numerous reforms to improve the investment climate. As a result, FDI increased throughout the past decade, peaking at $72 billion in 2008.

The international community should consider policy measures to ensure that resource extraction is beneficial to the host country so that resources are transformed into productive assets and can contribute to long-term growth. That is the core message of the Africa Mining Vision 2050.

A critical factor in the changing development landscape is the primacy of domestic resources for Africa's development. Although aid has been an important source of development financing in the past, Africa is moving beyond aid to achieve self-sustaining, private sector-led growth. For instance, internally generated revenue in Africa grew significantly, from $129 billion in 2002 to $472 billion in 2008. Overall, domestic revenue represented 84 per cent of total sources of financing for Africa in 2009.

The imperative to move beyond aid will therefore lead to reducing dependency on aid, and thereby facilitate the implementation of NEPAD's vision of

sustainable growth and development and the continent's desire to move towards development effectiveness. The ongoing transformation will benefit greatly from this exit strategy on aid and redirect focus to the viability of FDI, public-private partnerships and raising domestic resources for development.

Africa is the continent of the future. Over the past decade, Africa's development landscape has changed for the better. A new story of steady transformation and growth is evolving on the continent. Africa is reaffirming its commitment to a global and balanced partnership with the rest of the world as the continent's vision lends credence to the growth potential of development. This also reflects the NEPAD vision and its continued relevance and highlights the modest successes in implementing NEPAD.

We are reinforcing the need to effectively use both internal and external resources so as to attain the much-desired development outcomes and impact. The partnership focus of NEPAD was a clarion call to the rest of Africa that our futures were inseparable and that our fate was a collective one. Across the continent, Africans declared that they would no longer allow themselves to be conditioned by circumstances. While the frontiers of development are being redefined by new opportunities, emerging actors and creative relationships, Africa itself is embracing new orientations and innovations.

The continent is committed to serve as a fundamental contributor to global economic recovery and stability. We aspire to become a growth pole, and not to be confined to perpetually managing poverty. Development assistance should therefore be directed at Africa's real economy to enhance its present growth path, while ensuring the full involvement and participation of an empowered private sector and civil society.

We call for the strengthening of partnership with the international community represented here at the United Nations. We are especially appreciative of the sustained support of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and all United Nations agencies for the implementation of the NEPAD agenda.

(*spoke in French*)

This will help Africa to firmly secure its future. More than ever before, Africans are optimistic about their bright prospects for growth and prosperity. The African continent is ready to play its role on the global stage so as to achieve its agenda of development effectiveness.

Programme of work

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I would like to make an announcement concerning the consideration of agenda item 114, sub-items (a), "Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination"; (b), "Election of the members of the International Law Commission"; and (c), "Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme", which had been scheduled for Wednesday, 16 November. Those elections will now take place on Thursday, 17 November, in the morning.

In order to facilitate the election of members of the International Law Commission, and in accordance with the established practice, the General Assembly will take an advance decision on the matter of requesting the Secretariat to issue a consolidated list of candidates reflecting all submissions and changes received so far. It is my intention to consult the Assembly in this regard on Monday morning, 17 October 2011.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

United Nations A/66/PV.33

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

33rd plenary meeting
Tuesday, 11 October 2011, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Zinsou (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda items 63 and 13 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/202)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/214)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/66/169)

Mr. Sinhaseni (Thailand): At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered this morning by my colleague the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Ten years have passed since African leaders adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in July 2001. During these past 10 years, many crises, both natural and man-made, have hindered our collective efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa. While Africa has shown great resilience and made tremendous progress, much more remains to be achieved. Allow me to reiterate here my country's continued stance in remaining firm and in solidarity with Africa in support of NEPAD's goal of generating broad-based and equitable economic growth conducive to poverty reduction in Africa and ensuring Africa's enhanced integration within the global economy.

Thailand wishes to commend the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on the agenda items under consideration, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: ninth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support" (A/66/202) and "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (A/66/214), as well as his note entitled "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa" (A/66/169). Thailand welcomes in particular NEPAD's concrete progress as reflected in the reports. Permit me now to share with members of the Assembly some of Thailand's views.

First, we reaffirm our commitment to Africa and reiterate our aim to deepen relations with our African friends as partners in development in all dimensions, based on mutual trust. We also call for full international support for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, adopted in May at the

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Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

Secondly, Thailand supports the implementation of policy actions on NEPAD's sectoral priorities and stands ready to share our experiences in economic and social development with Africa. We are always prepared to explore meaningful ways to work together through both South-South and triangular cooperation, such as in the case of the cooperation among Thailand, Japan and Africa and that with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development through the International Institute for Trade and Development in Bangkok.

Thailand has long worked with our African partners to advance Africa's development agenda. In 2010, Thailand implemented 242 programmes for Africa, amounting to $1.1 million, through bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation. Forty-five fellowships were extended to Africa last year, totalling $465,000, with an emphasis on human resources development and capacity-building.

We have targeted key areas in which we have experience and expertise, which we believe will have a great impact on the people. The first area is agriculture, to increase productivity and add value to agricultural products. Additional areas include public health, to build capacity in preventing and treating pandemics as well as community health development; education with particular emphasis on capacity-building at the grass-roots level in areas such as tourism and small and medium enterprise development.

It goes without saying that peace and security are necessary for the success of any economic and social development efforts. We are therefore proud and privileged that Thailand is able to contribute to peace and stability in Africa. At present, an 800-strong Thai infantry battalion is serving alongside our African brothers in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. In addition, Thailand has sent two counter-piracy task groups to join international efforts in patrolling the Gulf of Aden.

Thirdly, as my Foreign Minister stated during this year's general debate (see A/66/PV.28), development must be people-centred. Thailand therefore supports NEPAD's founding document, which emphasizes the need for partnership between African Governments and their people, as well as the Secretary-General's recommendations in his reports calling for strengthening mechanisms for the participation, inclusion and empowerment of all segments of society in the political and development processes in order to truly achieve sustainable and equitable development.

Fourthly, climate change is a serious threat to food security and sustainable development, especially for least developed countries. We therefore call for early and adequate funding of developing countries for adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as the transfer of relevant technology.

Lastly, concerning the fight against malaria, Thailand was successful in reducing the number of its reported cases by more than 50 per cent between 2000 and 2009. In this regard, we will continue to move forward with preventive measures and aim to reduce the number of malaria-risk areas in Thailand by a further 20 per cent by 2020. We have also joined with our neighbours in the Mekong subregion to collectively fight malaria. Moreover, Thailand is committed to continuing to share our experiences and best practices with Africa in the fight against malaria through capacity-building projects and annual training programmes, in order to achieve NEPAD's goals and MDG targets.

Finally, NEPAD has made much progress and has gained momentum. We must therefore find ways to ensure that global and regional challenges and crises do not nullify those gains. Collective solidarity will be needed from within Africa, as well as on the part of the international community, to carry forward this momentum and further support the implementation of the priorities to which I have referred for a more peaceful and prosperous Africa. Thailand remains committed to this goal and to our African friends.

Mrs. Dunlop (Brazil): Allow me, at the outset, to acknowledge the presence of Brazilian parliamentarians at this meeting of the General Assembly. They have come a long way from various regions of Brazil to lend their support to our work. In particular, I would like to thank Senator Petecão from Acre, Deputy Leréia, President of the External Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Brazilian Congress, and Deputy Geraldo Resende from Mato Grosso do Sul, for being here with us this afternoon.

I would like to thank the President for convening this joint debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and on the Decade to Roll

Back Malaria in Developing Countries. This plenary meeting is an important opportunity for us to reaffirm our support for two initiatives that are central to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals in Africa, including the Millennium Development Goals.

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of NEPAD, it is becoming clear that Africa is undergoing a profound economic, social and political transformation. Over the past decade, Africa achieved rates of economic growth significantly above the world average. In fact, six of the 10 fastest-growing countries in the world are on the African continent. Between 2000 and 2010, sub-Saharan Africa grew 5.7 per cent annually, on average, compared to 2.4 per cent during the two previous decades.

Economic growth has been accompanied by the expansion of domestic markets, increasing urbanization, and investment in social and human capital and infrastructure. The growing diversification and resilience of African economies was decisive in their rapid recovery from the financial and economic crisis in 2008. Yet many challenges still remain. The world economy once again faces renewed uncertainty, and many African countries depend largely on basic commodities for their economic well-being.

Brazil remains fully committed to Africa's economic, social and political development. Based on the principles of national ownership and leadership, NEPAD can count on our full and enthusiastic support for the effective framework it offers for cooperation and development, rooted in African perspectives and African priorities.

Over the past 10 years, Brazil has been increasingly engaged with Africa. Culminating in 2011 with its recognition of the new State of South Sudan, Brazil has now established diplomatic relations with all 54 countries of Africa. In recognition of our growing partnership with Africa, we have also greatly expanded our diplomatic network on the continent, opening 19 embassies in the past 10 years, for a total of 37 missions today. In that context, the Brazilian parliamentarians who are here today have been of great help and understanding in enabling us to reach this level of representation.

The Africa-South America Summit process has also played a crucial role in fostering closer dialogue and understanding between our regions and peoples. Bilateral economic ties between Brazil and Africa have also prospered. In particular, trade between Brazil and Africa increased significantly over the past decade, from approximately $4.2 billion in 2000 to more than $20 billion in 2010. We have also expanded investment in several countries on the continent, particularly in the construction, mining, energy and transportation sectors. Brazil looks forward to increasing its air and sea connections to Africa, with a view to establishing the transportation links necessary for supporting a diversified trade and investment relationship.

Brazil fully supports the sectoral priorities established by NEPAD. In recognition of the priority role of agricultural and rural development for food security and poverty eradication, we have sought to work with African partner countries to develop joint initiatives in this area. Since 2002, Brazil has concluded more than 50 cooperation agreements in the area of agriculture with 18 African countries, including Algeria, Angola, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia. In 2010, we were pleased to host 45 African countries at the first Brazil-Africa Dialogue on Food Security, the Fight Against Hunger, and Rural Development.

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation — the State company Embrapa — has opened an office in Ghana, with a view to supporting the technological and productive improvement of savanna agriculture in Africa. The office has a comprehensive collection of plant and animal varieties, as well as key data and know-how, adapted to tropical agriculture. It has provided assistance to over 30 countries in the region. As a rule, the cooperation projects aim to transfer skills, build local capacity and empower local workers, with the full engagement and ownership of African Governments.

As a country afflicted by malaria, Brazil is committed to working with the international community and other developing countries, especially African countries, to rid the world of that disease.

At the bilateral level, we have developed joint programmes for the prevention and control of malaria with a number of African countries so as to strengthen national health systems, particularly with regard to monitoring and epidemiology. We have also implemented initiatives in training and capacity-building in order to prevent and control the disease.

At the multilateral level, we participate in the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, the International Drug Purchase Facility and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, among others efforts. Based on our national experience, we believe that it is possible to reduce the number of cases by expanding health-care services and integrating control and care activities.

The international community has made significant progress in the past decade in the pursuit of the goals to achieve universal coverage of malaria prevention and treatment by 2010 and to reduce global malaria deaths to near zero preventable deaths by 2015. At this stage, it is clear that it may be difficult to achieve the agreed goals unless donors fully meet their development assistance commitments, particularly with regard to the Gleneagles targets for doubling aid for Africa.

In addition to traditional prevention strategies, such as the use of insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, national Governments should be able to count on the support of the international community to implement mechanisms to ensure universal access to free or affordable medicines for the treatment of malaria for those who are already affected, making full use of the flexibilities in the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health.

The Brazilian Government remains fully committed to further strengthening the prevention and control of malaria in order to maintain a sustained reduction of cases of infection, especially in the most vulnerable areas of the Amazon region. To that end, we have launched our national programme for malaria control, which aims to reduce by 50 per cent the number of cases of malaria in the municipalities responsible for the majority of the infections registered in Brazil.

Mr. Laseinde (Nigeria): My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports contained in documents A/66/202 and A/66/214, as well as for the organization of this debate.

Nigeria associates itself with the statement made at the 32nd plenary meeting by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the African Group.

The role that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), supported by the United Nations and the international community, in transforming and improving the well-being of the citizens on the continent of Africa, particularly in the areas of democratic governance, domestic resource mobilization, improved economic growth, poverty eradication, the promotion of sustainable growth and the empowerment of women though building partnerships at the country, regional and global levels, can never be overemphasized. In that regard, my delegation congratulates NEPAD on its tenth anniversary, which was marked here at the United Nations last Friday.

The anniversary is worth celebrating in view of the strong economic growth and improvement in socio-economic indicators that have been experienced during the period under review. Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the few regions of the world to show great resilience in the face of the global economic crisis.

While recovering from the impact of the global economic crisis that affected the international financial markets in 2008, many developing countries, including those in Africa, have embarked on macroeconomic reform programmes capable of transforming their economies and strengthening their financial institutions. Those efforts have led to lower rates of inflation and strong gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

In addition, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is progressing gradually. So far, 30 States members of the African Union have acceded to the APRM; 14 countries have completed the first review process, and are being peer reviewed by the APRM Forum; while two countries have also received country peer-review missions and are slated for peer review in January 2012.

The APRM process has created awareness among States, especially in the understanding of the nexus between peace and development. There has consequently been a significant reduction of political tension and violence within and between African States. The internationally acclaimed free and fair elections in Nigeria, the successful referendum in the Sudan, the adoption of a new Constitution in Kenya and the transitions in Guinea and Niger are changing the political space in Africa for the better.

Nigeria's current economic policies are focused on addressing key infrastructural shortcomings as a crucial element in setting the stage for long-term stable growth in an effort to break the past 30 years of uncontrollable boom-and-bust cycles. Our GDP grew from 7.0 per cent in 2009 to an estimated 8.1 per cent in 2010. The robust growth in 2010, in the aftermath of the global financial and economic crisis, underscores the resilience of the Nigerian economy. Medium-term prospects are also bright, with real GDP growth projected to remain strong and stable at 6.9 per cent in 2011 and 6.7 per cent in 2012.

Medium- to long-term prospects will require addressing key reforms in order to advance infrastructure development and to broaden the economic base through enhanced private-sector participation. The Nigerian Government is therefore pursuing a transformation agenda as a strategic policy thrust to address the developmental needs and the challenges of the future. Indeed, there is a renewed sense of optimism and belief in our ability to create a new Nigeria on the principles of personal freedom, democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

In spite of the progress in the political and economic sectors on the African continent, there are still challenges in the areas of armed conflict, fragility and erosion of the rule of law and chronic poverty, with severe implications for women and children. Similarly, reports of human rights violations, terrorist attacks, trafficking in small arms and light weapons, the scourge of piracy and unresolved electoral issues abound. The time has come for the United Nations and the international community to focus attention on the root causes of those conflicts and proffer enduring solutions.

My delegation believes that cultivating peace and fulfilling the aims of Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter require the early identification of, and appropriate intervention in, conflict situations, in order to build confidence and trust and preclude the eruption of violence between opposing parties. Our goal should always be to present the peaceful alternative as a less costly and more effective way of achieving political and social objectives.

In addition to other traditional tools of preventive diplomacy, democracy and good governance can be particularly important in building a just, equitable and inclusive society. By focusing on mediation as a tool for conflict prevention, we are able to address the real triggers of conflict. Otherwise we cannot achieve sustainable solutions.

The African Union has sufficiently demonstrated the political will for peaceful resolution of the continent's problems. It has served as a veritable platform to articulate the continent's agenda. The United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, has been a worthy partner of Africa, especially in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and even economic reconstruction. The African Union's efforts have proved that regional organizations are uniquely placed to tackle threats to regional peace and security.

However, in view of recent challenges, there is a need to further strengthen and consolidate collaboration and partnership in the areas of peace and development between the secretariats of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. That partnership should continue to be based on mutual trust and respect, on the basis of mutual support and shared responsibility and commitment. It should aim to address the main constraints on Africa's economic growth and development. It is further hoped that, with increased consultations between the two bodies, they will be able to develop a robust regional structure for peace and security.

Nigeria therefore calls for support for the African Union architecture and its full operationalization, including the implementation of the Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union. In addition, there is a need for a robust special fund for the African Union, which will ensure sustainable, flexible and predictable funding for peacekeeping operations in Africa. It will also enable the continent to overcome the perennial problem of sustaining peacekeeping operations, which are marked by a lack of political will, insufficient funding, lack of military hardware, infrastructure and logistics and delay in deployment.

My delegation holds the view that the envisaged relationship should be strengthened to support actions to foster the pacific settlement of disputes. We must, however, also focus on institutional capacity-building and adequate resource mobilization for sustainable development. We believe that conflict-prevention measures and peacebuilding mechanisms are

fundamental to the resolution of conflict on the African continent.

The challenges on the continent remain formidable. Whereas we have made considerable progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS, malaria and non-communicable diseases are on the increase. In spite of the political momentum generated at the African Summit on Roll Back Malaria, held in Abuja in April 2000, malaria continues to kill millions of children. It is regrettable that, in spite of the enormous human, financial and material resources deployed by Governments and non-governmental organizations over the past 10 years, a child still dies every 30 seconds from malaria in Africa.

In Nigeria more than 90 per cent of the population is still at risk of the disease. More than 52 per cent of them are children. The eradication of malaria should be a top priority on the international agenda. We recognize and commend the contribution of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other bilateral donors, charitable organizations and foundations in the fight against malaria. But a lot more needs to be done if the goal of halving deaths from malaria is to be achieved in the near future.

I assure the Assembly that we in Africa are not resting on our horse and that we are marshalling sustainable development strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels in order to take responsibility for our own development within the confines of available resources. Democracy, the rule of law, good governance, transparency and accountability, respect for human rights, peer review mechanisms and peaceful, democratic means of changing Governments are taking firm root in Africa.

Of course, we have challenges of an endogenous nature as well, such as climate change, an unfavourable international trade system and endemic diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which impede our development efforts. To address those problems holistically, we need the collaboration and commitment of our development partners, as well as the support of the United Nations and the international community.

Nigeria stands ready to share its experience with other developing countries where such is needed. We have strong faith that despite the challenges that face us in Africa as a result of the global economic crisis, this body will continue to address them until a secure and more sustainable and just global economic order is achieved.

Mr. Balé (Congo) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is taking the floor under sub-item (a) of agenda item 63, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

Africa has seen many initiatives and proposed development solutions that never came to fruition. After numerous setbacks and disappointed hopes, African heads of State and Government, stirred by a common vision of the continent's development, in 2001 adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In doing so, they took upon themselves the challenges of regional integration, accelerated growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and the integration of Africa in the globalization process.

Following a decade marked by a bold awareness-raising campaign, aimed especially at Africans taking ownership of it and to finally spur it into action, it seems to us that the time is right, at this symbolic tenth anniversary, to take a critical look back at the process of its launching, assess the road travelled and plot the major courses of action remaining to be taken to accelerate its realization.

In terms of strengthening institutions, my delegation is pleased to highlight the efforts undertaken by the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in the process of States' ownership of the new rules on self-assessment for good governance, based on the concepts of democracy and political governance; economic governance and management; corporate governance and socio-economic development.

Liberia's signing of a memorandum of understanding at the end of the fourteenth forum of the heads of State and Government of the APRM, held in Addis Ababa on 29 January, expanded its membership to 30 African States, all resolutely committed to the path of good governance.

Early on, Congo gauged the importance of governance for its development. That is why my country was among the very first States to join that self-assessment and evaluation process as soon as it was launched in 2003.

At a time when uncertainty looms over the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by many African countries' by 2015, Congo welcomes the involvement of NEPAD in efforts to achieve the MDGs in Africa as stressed by the Secretary-General's 2011 report assessing the progress made by Africa in attaining the MDGs. That is clearly an indication of strong political will among our heads of State and Government. This is also a case for their unwavering commitment to work to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD, especially in priority areas.

Such a commitment of course requires support from the international community. Congo continues to honour its commitment to the implementation of NEPAD. From 13 to 15 September in Brazzaville, we organized a workshop on information and raising public awareness about NEPAD programmes and projects, with special emphasis on progress in priority infrastructure projects in the context of regional and subregional integration.

For African countries, those infrastructure projects comprise the cornerstone of socio-economic development. Among such infrastructure projects, which are tasked with linking together the countries of the subregion — Congo with Cameroon, Congo with Gabon and Congo with the Central African Republic — I would especially like to highlight the hallmark subregional integration project to establish a road-rail bridge over the Congo River to link Brazzaville and Kinshasa.

A study is to be carried out on the road-rail bridge project over the Congo River and the extension of the Kinshasa-Hebo railway. Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have secured a $7.95 million grant from the African Development Bank to fund the study. The Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, which was designated as the implementing authority, will be supported in those efforts by a joint technical committee comprised of experts from both countries and from ECCAS. The cost of the study totals approximately €6,615,200.

As members of the Assembly are aware, energy plays a decisive role in any development process. Energy infrastructure is ultimately one of the key drivers of integration and economic growth on our continent. In that regard, Central Africa has substantial hydropower potential, which will foster cross-border electricity interlinkages based on a master plan on subregional energy, on which a study is already available.

The implementation of these cornerstone projects in Central Africa will convey the shared will of the Governments of the countries of the subregion to transform NEPAD into a dynamic mechanism for integration and development. The strategic framework, whose aim is to address the crucial problems hampering the continent's development, has enabled African countries to record encouraging progress in key areas such as peace and security, sustainable development, new information and telecommunication technologies, health, education and, in particular, agriculture, which is considered the most important subsector in order to ensure accelerated economic growth in the region through a detailed programme on agricultural development in Africa.

It is clear that even greater efforts must be made, especially through capacity-building for regional economic communities, improving communication between NEPAD and regional economic communities, resource-mobilization, increased private sector investment and knowledge and the efficient use of support sources, including ownership of NEPAD by populations. With that in mind, Congo has set up a national coordinating structure for NEPAD that is tasked with tracking the implementation of NEPAD projects and programmes nationally to ensure that those are firmly rooted in the daily concerns of the Government.

The tenth anniversary of NEPAD must serve to ensure African leadership of NEPAD's implementation. However, we must acknowledge that prior years have been witness to African countries' pledging resolutely to implement NEPAD. But they have also experienced frustration of their efforts due to successive crises and weak partnerships that have not always fulfilled their promises.

The tenth anniversary should also serve as an opportunity to again recall the commitment of African countries to take in hand their destinies collectively and individually, and to prompt their respective Governments to further step up their efforts. At the same time, we are duty-bound to recall that NEPAD is also the new partnership that Africa has sealed for the rest of the world. The successful culmination of our efforts will depend, to a large extent, on a more dynamic and more sincere partnership, with a view to

removing the hurdles and expediting progress towards attainment of NEPAD's objectives.

Mr. Imakando (Zambia): The Zambian delegation has the honour to address the General Assembly on the subject of the 2001-2010 Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Zambia notes with appreciation the report of the World Health Organization in that regard (see A/66/169), which my delegation found useful.

My delegation also aligns itself with the statement delivered this morning by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the African Group.

As the immediate past-Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board, we wish to reiterate that malaria remains a major public health challenge in many African countries, especially among children under the age of five years, pregnant women and vulnerable members of society.

In 2007, Zambia recorded 4.3 million cases of malaria, with over 6,000 deaths attributed to the disease. In addition to its direct health impact, such a high incidence of malaria causes a severe social and economic burden on individuals and households, and indeed on communities at large. The Zambian Government has therefore prioritized malaria in its sixth national development plan, which covers the period 2011 to 2015, in line with the Abuja Declaration to Roll Back Malaria in Africa and the Roll Back Malaria targets.

Some of the measures that Zambia has put in place to combat this scourge include eliminating, through an act of Parliament, taxation on malaria control tools, including mosquito nets and relevant insecticides; banning monotherapy treatments using chloroquine and promoting artemisinin-based combination therapies; increasing the range of indoor residual spraying from five districts in 2003 to 54 districts in 2010, covering over 1 million households; and scaling up the provision, from 2007 to 2010, of insecticide-treated nets to over 6 million people.

We are also providing intermittent presumptive treatment to all pregnant women as a way of preventing malaria during pregnancy; training health-care personnel in the proper diagnosis and treatment of malaria, using rapid diagnostic tests and artemisinin-based combination therapies; and strengthening community-based interventions through capacity-building for malaria case management.

As a result of those high-impact interventions that the Zambian Government, in collaboration with international cooperating partners, has put in place, malaria deaths were reduced by 60 per cent during the Decade to Roll Back Malaria.

However, despite the various interventions to prevent malaria, a number of challenges still remain. Those include the erratic disbursement of committed funds by some cooperating partners, lengthy procedures in the disbursement of funds, and inadequate human resources, among others.

In concluding my remarks, I wish to take this opportunity to call upon the international community to continue to extend assistance to Zambia in the fight against malaria.

Mr. Swe (Myanmar): At the outset, I wish to congratulate the President on his assumption of the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. We pledge our full support and cooperation to him in ensuring a fruitful conclusion to the session.

Myanmar associates itself with the statement made this morning by our colleague from the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his insightful and comprehensive reports (A/66/202 and A/66/214) on agenda item 63.

Today, Africa faces both great opportunities and grave challenges in its pursuit of peace and development. To tackle the challenges faced by Africa, we are of the view that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can be an important tool to address poverty and underdevelopment throughout the African continent, as well as a collective vision and a strategic socio-economic development framework for Africa. Since the launching of NEPAD, 10 years ago, African countries have achieved great progress in such areas as infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, the environment, tourism, science and technology and information and telecommunications technologies, with the vigorous support of the international community.

Africa has rebounded from the global economic and financial crisis despite the slowdown in the pace of the global economic recovery. We are happy to note that average economic growth in Africa between 2002 to 2010 was an impressive 5.5 per cent. However, Africa, like no other continent, remains heavily affected by the challenges of climate change and food security. We also know that Africa still lags behind other regions with regard to progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular those related to child and maternal mortality and access to adequate sanitation and safe drinking water.

In that regard, we share the view that the international community should increase its support for Africa and help it attain greater progress in the implementation of NEPAD. In order to promote stability and prosperity in Africa, the international community should deliver the assistance it has committed to provide, in time and with respect for the right of self-determination of African countries. Moreover, they should build new and broad partnerships, expand South-South cooperation, strengthen the role of international bodies and mobilize innovative financing.

Myanmar and Africa have a deep-rooted traditional relationship and friendship. As one of the organizers of the historic Asia-Africa Bandung Conference, Myanmar has always been committed to the cause of peace and development on the continent, as well as a strong supporter of decolonization efforts on the part of African countries.

As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar confirms its commitment to continue building synergies and friendship with Africa under the framework of ASEAN — not only through the New Partnership for Africa's Development but also the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership. Myanmar also recognizes the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, two of NEPAD's innovative initiatives aimed at promoting good governance and creating the conditions for broad-based economic growth.

In addition, Myanmar firmly believes that the Peace Building Commission can assist African countries emerging from conflict in moving forward to peacebuilding efforts by encouraging and supporting home-based programmes, including on youth employment, vocational training and education, in order to achieve stability and security in Africa.

It is our firm conviction that the efforts of the people of Africa for economic revitalization and social progress should be given stronger support from the United Nations, development partners and the international community through strengthening their work and priorities on assisting African countries. Myanmar wishes to reiterate its solidarity with African countries in calling for the international community to enhance its contribution to the cause of peace and development in Africa.

Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon (Republic of Korea): Africa's development is the key to promoting global peace and prosperity on a sustainable basis. Embracing Africa in the process of political, economic and social development will therefore be a core challenge for the international community as a whole.

In that regard, the Republic of Korea welcomes the Secretary-General's report entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: ninth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support" (A/66/202). We are very much encouraged by the report's assessment that Africa has made noticeable progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, the report also indicates that performance across countries and across MDG targets still remains uneven. It is crucial, therefore, that the international community reinvigorate its effort for all MDGs to be achieved by 2015 by broadening partnerships with development partners.

In that respect, we believe that this year's tenth anniversary of the adoption of the flagship programme of the African Union will carry particular significance. While warmly welcoming that occasion, my delegation wishes to reiterate that the Korean Government is ready to work closely with our partners in the region in strengthening our development cooperation.

As a part of our own efforts, the Republic of Korea organized the second Korea-Africa Forum in 2009, where we announced our commitment to double our official development assistance to Africa by 2012, compared with the 2008 figures. At the Forum, the Republic of Korea also reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing its partnership with Africa in such diverse fields as green growth, climate change, food security, governance and capacity-building based on Korea's

development experience. More recently, the Korean Government decided to provide $5.4 million in humanitarian assistance to countries in the Horn of Africa, which are suffering from severe drought and a dire food crisis. An additional $10 million in assistance will follow to help to strengthen development capacity in that region.

Next year, we will host the third round of the Korea-Africa Forum where we will assess the progress made in our efforts and commitments. We sincerely hope that this continuous partnership will complement the progress made on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. We are confident that, through this close cooperation, we can realign ourselves with Africa's development needs and priorities.

In order to obtain more development results from our development cooperation with Africa, we believe that partnerships should not be limited to such traditional players as donor countries, recipient countries and international organizations. Instead, further efforts are needed to engage, in our pursuit of African development, more diverse development partners, including emerging donors, civil society, private foundations and business sectors.

In that regard, my delegation wishes to draw attention to the upcoming fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in November in Busan. The Busan Forum is expected to provide an excellent platform to address this issue. My country will make an extra effort to seek to build more inclusive and broader partnerships by engaging all actors in development cooperation and by embracing diverse approaches to development. We will make every effort to reflect the concerns of the African region in the Forum.

Before I conclude, I should like to reaffirm our belief that Africa holds great potential to become a driving force for global economic growth. It is in our common interest, therefore, to help Africa to achieve sustainable development through enhanced partnership. I wish to reiterate that the Republic of Korea will remain fully committed to closely working with our partners in Africa in that process.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): My delegation welcomes the opportunity to take part in today's debate, which is so important for the African continent. We thank the Secretary-General for the quality of his reports on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/66/202 and A/66/214).

In addition to the statement made by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the African Group, which of course my delegation fully supports, I would like to add the following remarks.

Less than five years before the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the African continent continues to face hurdles in achieving those Goals. Today's debate provides an opportunity to discuss the various initiatives and approaches that will enable the continent to address the challenges of sustainable and human development.

No one can deny the progress made by the African continent, primarily in terms of conflict resolution and the return to stability, without which sustainable development would be nothing but a distant and always elusive goal. Nor can anyone deny that African countries have implemented ambitious policies, which have enabled us to consolidate our democratic and macroeconomic achievements and good governance practices.

In geo-economic terms, with its abundant mining, mineral and energy resources, along with its considerable human potential, Africa is playing an increasingly strategic role as a key player in the global economy.

The average growth rate of 4.9 per cent in 2010 certainly surpassed that of 2009, estimated at 3.1 per cent. Nevertheless, the continent has yet to reach the threshold growth rate of 7 per cent required to ensure sustainable, comprehensive and inclusive development, as well as to improve the lives of its citizens and achieve its development goals.

We must therefore think about how to give much-needed impetus to the collective initiatives and actions of Africa and its development partners at the multilateral, regional and subregional levels. This would facilitate efforts to foster the growth and the sustainable and human development of the continent.

The situation that Africa is facing, which is marked by a series of social, economic and food crises, combined with numerous security and environmental challenges, requires a deeper commitment by Africa's development partner countries.

In view of the financial crisis and the resulting budget constraints adopted in many countries, official development assistance and fulfilment of the commitments made by the Group of Eight have taken on vital importance for African countries, in particular the least developed among them. We therefore urge the international community to keep its promises and to provide further support to the African continent by making it a central priority of programmes designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

At the same time, we must step up South-South cooperation, a significant vehicle for Africa's economic and social development, by boosting trade and optimizing partnerships. In that respect, the initiative of emerging countries to forge specific and targeted partnerships with Africa will give decisive momentum to South-South cooperation. Efforts must also be made to identify innovative cooperation mechanisms among the countries of the South that can drive their development and increase their prosperity.

Moreover, regional integration continues to be an excellent means of capitalizing on regional development efforts. It is, furthermore, a prerequisite for creating the synergies necessary to ensure the proper and optimal use of individual capacities for the common good.

The role of the private sector as a catalyst for development in Africa is clear. Growing and committed private-sector involvement in African development would not only mobilize the resources necessary for various development programmes, but also build Africa's capacities and, more indirectly, its competitiveness, which would enable it to become a key link in the global economy, and not just a mere natural resource pool or a market for industrial goods. In that connection, my country laments the lack of progress made in the Doha Round of negotiations, particularly on quotas relevant to Africa. We urge the main stakeholders to accelerate their efforts to conclude the Doha Round.

In terms of foreign direct investment, which is so crucial to the development of the continent, I wish to reiterate the special importance of convening a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on investment in Africa, which would serve as a tool for the development and economic growth of the continent. This proposal stems from the unfailing commitment of His Majesty the King of Morocco to Africa's development. It takes the form of partnerships with the United Nations for peace and security in Africa, assistance for training and human resources development and the sharing of expertise in the areas of agriculture, fishing, tourism, electricity supply, water management and the fight against desertification. These partnerships involve various African and non-African countries.

My country stands ready to further enhance such cooperation and to expand it in the interest of sustainable and harmonious development in Africa.

Mr. Nissilä (Finland): Sustainable economic growth is one of the key elements in poverty reduction. In particular, during the ongoing global economic crisis, we have seen that efforts in Africa to improve economic performance and private sector development have started to bear fruit. In fact, while many developed economies have been struggling to keep growth going, many African countries have shown enviable gross domestic product growth figures.

Economic growth, investments in infrastructure, social protection systems, and the promotion of good governance and human rights are all key elements. In developing appropriate social protection mechanisms, we must pay particular attention to the promotion of women's and girls' rights and to the promotion of social equality. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has been one of the key players in those developments.

Finland believes that the active cooperation with other international organizations that NEPAD has engaged in can further enhance sustainable economic development in Africa. The growth of economic integration in Africa is very important for the development of the continent. The African economy has to be strengthened, diversified and integrated into the world economy.

Finland has been a strong supporter of the Africa Investment Initiative of NEPAD and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In particular, the Initiative supports a large-scale programme on unlocking investment potential in Southern Africa. It assists members of the Southern Africa Development Community in identifying and implementing concrete policy reforms to strengthen their investment climate. The programme entails four country-level investment reviews and facilitates the sharing of national experiences through regional

forums and peer review. Zambia and Mozambique have started to assess their investment regime within the framework of the programme.

Finland currently acts as Co-Chair for the Africa Partnership Forum, a high-level dialogue forum for the Group of Eight, NEPAD, the African Union and the OECD. As a co-Chair, Finland has stressed the development of Africa's own capabilities and the issue of responsible investment.

I would now like to touch upon sub-item (b) of agenda item 63, relating to the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as to thank the Secretary-General for his excellent report (A/66/214). The report highlights a number of crucial issues, such as youth, education and employment and issues relating to conflict and natural resources. The report also stresses the importance of more active engagement of young people in the promotion of peace and security. I should now like to take up some examples of how Finland supports its African partners in the field of peace and security.

First, Finland has supported the strengthening of the African Union's mediation support capacity through a three-year project financed through development cooperation funds. The project has achieved good results, and it will continue. The purpose of this programme is to develop Africa's own capabilities to prevent and resolve conflicts, including by supporting the participation of women and by ensuring adequate consideration of gender issues in peace processes. We would like to congratulate the African Union for its work in advancing the agenda on women, peace and security.

Finland also contributed to the work of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, led by former South African President Mbeki. It is also important to stress the role of non-governmental organizations in mediation and all peacebuilding efforts. Finland has, together with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, a South African non-governmental organization, established the African Peacebuilding Coordination Programme. The Programme focuses on enhancing coherence and coordination in peacebuilding, with the aim of promoting local ownership in peacebuilding processes and supporting the design and implementation of peacebuilding policy frameworks.

We have also been a longstanding supporter of Femmes Africa Solidarité, most recently in their work in assisting the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi in the preparation of their national action plans on women, peace and security.

Peace and security are prerequisites for sustainable development. At the same time, economic and social development, including the rule of law and human rights, is a major contributor to political stability and, ultimately, to peace and security. It is of the utmost importance for Africa and for the international community to strengthen peace and development, thereby allowing African countries to use their resources for human development and the well-being of their citizens.

Mr. Elyes Lakhal (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the African Group. We would like to highlight several issues that Tunisia believes are of particular importance.

Today's discussion is of special importance, as it concerns a number of matters that are of crucial importance to Africa and marks the tenth anniversary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), following its adoption at the Organization of African Unity summit held in 2001 in Lusaka.

Over the past 10 years, NEPAD has built up institutional and technical experience at the regional and international levels and has enabled the creation of a forum for reflection on political, economic and environmental matters. NEPAD has also enabled the African Union's objectives to be translated into specific, visible and pragmatic projects, particularly when it comes to the objectives of strengthening regional integration, food security and the eradication of poverty.

Thanks to NEPAD, Africa has been able to make some progress in recent years in the areas of peace, political governance and economic growth. Progress has also been made in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms and in the organization of free and fair elections, notably through the activities of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism. In this regard, Tunisia is, for the first time in our history, preparing for credible, transparent and free elections, which will be held in less than a month, in order to elect a constituent

assembly. We are determined to achieve this important milestone, which will doubtless constitute a significant step on Africa's road to democracy and good governance.

These elements of progress illustrate Africa's determination to move towards sustainable growth and improve the image of our continent. However, despite these encouraging results, African countries are aware of the need for additional efforts, with a view to making economic growth more inclusive and more effective and to harnessing internal resources by involving the private sector in development activities to a greater extent.

In the context of high youth unemployment, development partners are called upon to support and encourage the efforts being made by Africa, in particular, by honouring their official development assistance commitments, promoting foreign direct investment and removing barriers to African exports. Accordingly, Tunisia welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of a review mechanism for commitments to Africa's development needs. This mechanism should enable a greater focus on assessing and measuring the implementation of official development assistance commitments and other commitments made with respect to aid to Africa.

The achievement of the objectives of the Global Malaria Action Plan has an impact on almost all of the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore important to support the efforts of the global partnership to roll back this illness which is so costly to the African continent.

In that connection, my delegation welcomes the increase in international financing for the fight against malaria over the past 10 years, which has enabled notable progress, particularly when it comes to increased access to insecticide-treated mosquito nets. We have thus increased the number of protected persons in sub-Saharan Africa from 13 million in 2005 to 75 million in 2009. This progress, although noteworthy, is not sufficient to achieve the objective we have set for ourselves in the area of malaria. It is therefore essential for all countries to work together to provide the funding necessary to fight against this scourge.

In spite of the considerable progress made in peace, security and development, Africa remains confronted with many complex problems, including inter-State conflicts, unconstitutional changes of Government, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and high unemployment, particularly among young people. In that connection, we thank the Secretary-General for his recently published report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/66/214), which provides an analysis of the two most urgent problems afflicting Africa, namely, youth education and employment, and conflicts and natural resources, both of which have serious consequences for the political and economic development of Africa and its political stability.

According to the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 60 per cent of Africa's population, almost 1 billion people, is under 25 years of age. In view of the population explosion among young people, we are duty-bound to attach particular importance to the urgency at the international level of providing quality education, professional skills and decent jobs. We agree with the Secretary-General's assertion that the uprisings seen in North Africa were partially due to youth unemployment, which has reached the alarming levels of 31 per cent in Tunisia and 34 per cent in Egypt. We also agree that unemployment can cause young people to become involved in criminal and violent activities.

In that connection, my delegation calls upon development partners, including international and civil society organizations, to support the efforts of African Governments to address the causes of despair among African youth at the social, political and economic levels and to support national efforts in the areas of investment, job creation and poverty eradication in Africa.

In conclusion, my delegation will always be committed to contributing constructively to these fundamental matters for Africa's development.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to begin by congratulating the Secretary-General on the report published in document A/66/202, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: ninth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support".

I would also like to indicate that my delegation endorses the statement made from this podium on behalf of the African Group.

As stressed at the outset by the Secretary-General, the publication of the report coincides with a number of salient events, namely, the tenth anniversary of the adoption by African leaders of the flagship programme of the African Union, which is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, held in this Hall in September 2010 on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the adoption, last May, of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; and the adoption of the Framework for Implementation of the Recommendations of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, all of this points to a resurgence of attention, which, at the same time, shows that African countries have experienced many difficulties in achieving the MDGs. In section II of his report, the Secretary-General analyses actions taken by African countries and organizations. In section III, we see the response of the international community. In section IV, the support provided by the United Nations system is analysed.

Allow me to begin by providing an overview of the progress made in the implementation of NEPAD in the context of the four salient elements I referred to earlier, as well in the light of the main recommendations of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and those contained in the report under consideration.

The recommended actions include: coordinating all forms of foreign aid in order to incorporate them into national development; contributing to the capacity-building of the regional economic communities; bolstering and developing local transit infrastructures and continuing to pool best practices so as to strengthen regional integration; and supporting the development of the private sector in Africa, the promotion of joint projects between the public sector and the private sector, and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in keeping with the decisions of the Executive Council of the African Union in this respect.

In general terms, my delegation shares the view of the Secretary-General that in the context of the current fragile and uncertain global recovery, the implementation of NEPAD and the achievement of the MDGs will require unwavering resolve and leadership on the part of the African countries and development partners alike if we are to translate theory into practice.

Like the Secretary-General, we welcome the fact that at the continent-wide level, the African Union in February 2010 approved the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the Union and established the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, whose mandate is to implement priority programmes and projects at the regional and continental levels in Africa.

With respect to the regional economic communities, which play a flagship role in the context of economic integration, we note with satisfaction that those communities are endeavouring to fulfil their leading role in the implementation of projects. Here I am thinking in particular of the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern Africa Development Community, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

At the national level, it is clear that the countries on the continent have each developed their own development programmes, consistent with the objectives of NEPAD.

At these various levels, efforts are continuing aimed at implementing the programmes in the various sectors identified by the Steering Group set up by the Secretary-General with a view to attaining the MDGs in Africa, in particular agriculture and food security, education, health, infrastructure, trade facilitation and statistical systems.

My delegation wishes to contribute to this assessment on the basis of the experience of my own country, Cameroon, in the context of the Central African subregion.

With respect to coordinating all forms of foreign aid so as to integrate them effectively into national development, Cameroon in 2010 embarked upon the establishment of a joint strategy for development. The first phase of the strategy, which involves an assessment, has made it possible to conduct several studies: one on the factors that are hampering the consumption of foreign aid; one assessing the

implementation of the Paris Declaration; and a further survey of the indicators related to the Declaration.

With respect to the capacity-building of the regional economic communities, Cameroon, which is a member of ECCAS and CEMAC, is in the process of implementing all the resolutions adopted by those institutions. The most recent example was the launching in Yaoundé in July 2010 of the Steering Committee on the streamlining of the regional economic communities, which seeks to harmonize their policies and programmes in the long term, and the convening in September 2010 of the working group charged with identifying areas for streamlining and with outlining an action plan for the Steering Committee.

As far as the strengthening and development of infrastructure is concerned, in recent years Cameroon has begun the construction of a transport network that is open to neighbouring countries. Cameroon's strategic vision of the country as a trading crossroads in Central Africa is taking shape in the form of two comprehensive planning frameworks.

The first is a national railroad master plan that takes into account the issue of regional integration through the interconnection of railway lines between Cameroon on the one hand and Chad, the Central African Republic, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the other hand.

The second is a national ports master plan that involves, inter alia, the construction of a deepwater port in Kribi, on the Atlantic seaboard, the aim of which is to provide access to the sea for the subregion as a whole. President Paul Biya laid the cornerstone for this important endeavour on 7 October 2011.

On land, Cameroon and the Congo have undertaken studies on stretches of road in their respective territories, with a view to linking Sangmélima, in Cameroon, with Ouesso, in the Congo.

Between Cameroon and Nigeria, the transport facilitation programme on the multinational Bamenda-Enugu road corridor is ready for implementation.

Between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, the project to asphalt the Kribi-Campo road and build a bridge over the Ntem river, between Campo and Rio Campo, is under way.

Between Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic, the regional flagship project is being implemented in the Douala-N'Djamena and Douala-Bangui pilot corridors.

Other recommendations in the process of implementation concern support for the development of the private sector in Africa, the promotion of partnership projects between the public and private sectors, and the implementation of the MDGs, in accordance with the decisions of the Executive Council of the African Union in that area.

In 2010, which saw the implementation of the strategy for growth and employment, Cameroon took an array of measures to develop the private sector spanning the period up to 2013. In the context of the implementation of the strategy document for growth and employment, Cameroon intends to rely on the following guidelines for developing the private sector, which include the diversification of the economy, in order to allow for the transition from a retail economy to a manufacturing economy, through the development of growth industries, capacity-building for businesses, with a focus on the consolidation of small units, improving competitiveness and the business environment. To that end, emphasis has been placed on the fight against corruption, market-access development and the diversification of sources of funding. Concerning access to local markets, the Government is encouraging the search for new outlets for local products. With respect to the diversification of funding sources, we are looking at developing public-private partnerships; facilitating access to loans for small- and medium-sized enterprises by offering loan guarantees, increasing the supply of decent jobs through business creation, diversifying the economy and improving competitiveness and the business environment.

Turning now to attainment of the MDGs, the actions my country has taken with regard to eliminating extreme poverty and hunger consist of, among other things, promoting a stable macroeconomic framework; strengthening growth by diversifying the economy; reinvigorating the private sector as a driver of growth and a partner in the provision of social services; developing basic infrastructure; and supporting rural populations in their initiatives in relevant areas such as agriculture, animal husbandry, agriculture and food processing.

Furthermore, the Government of Cameroon is implementing an education sector strategy designed, among other things, to expand access to education while reducing disparities and increasing quality and improving management and governance of the educational system. Cameroon has also ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. While we have seen a slight improvement in the ratio between men and women in every area, much still remains to be done, and the Ministry for the Advancement of Women has launched several actions. Similarly, with regard to reducing child mortality and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, officials expect to reach these goals through the implementation of our health sector strategy.

Concerning a sustainable environment, the Government has formulated a strategy for biodiversity and a forestry-environment sector programme that seeks to ensure compliance with international conventions and regional agreements. We also have a framework law regulating environmental management. Cameroon is a key player in all the programmes that have been initiated in central Africa in this area, including the Central African Forestry Commission, the Subregional Action Programme for combating desertification in Central Africa, the Niger Basin Authority, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

Cameroon's efforts to implement NEPAD have been made possible by its national policies and its establishment on a secure footing in the subregion, but also thanks to international cooperation. In that regard, my country generally welcomes the response of the international community as it seeks to fully exploit the momentum of international support for Africa's development, the topic in section III of the Secretary-General's report. However, it must be admitted that much remains to be done in terms of official development assistance (ODA), debt management, direct foreign investment, and trade.

With respect to official development assistance, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), of the $128 billion in total donor contributions, $48 billion were disbursed in Africa, which represents an annual increase in real terms of 11.7 per cent. However, the MDG Gap Task Force, studying delays in achievement of the MDGs, has deplored the $18 billion ODA shortfall and estimates that Africa has actually received only $46 billion, far below the $64 billion pledged at the Gleneagles Summit. This is therefore an opportunity to remind donors of the need to continue to fulfil their commitments. There have been some efforts to relieve the burden of debt for African countries, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, as well as bilateral debt forgiveness. On 28 July, 26 African countries, including Cameroon, reached the completion point and benefited from debt relief as provided for in the HPIC Initiative. We all know, however, that the economic crisis has been detrimental to such efforts through its adverse impact on Africa's debt levels.

In the area of foreign investment, we welcome the efforts of African countries to improve their investment environment, which has somewhat increased the flow of direct foreign investment, particularly for emerging countries. We encourage development partners to continue the support they are already providing through the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative. Finally, with regard to trade, the Doha Round of negotiations have made very little progress towards reaching an agreement on issues of concern to Africa, including ending subsidies for agricultural exports. This is notwithstanding the commitments made at the Group of 20 Summit held in Seoul in November 2010.

In section V of his report, the Secretary-General made various recommendations, including on the importance of African countries continuing their effective implementation of NEPAD projects and programmes; the need for robust African leadership in order to achieve tangible results; strengthening civic participation in Africa; the development of the agricultural sector to ensure food security, in accordance with the Maputo Declaration; greater participation by women, in the context of the African Women's Decade 2010-2020; the integration of the climate issue into economic planning and management; the reduction of foreign aid dependency and the promotion of self-reliance; job creation; strengthening Africa's contribution to world trade; and foreign debt relief.

But how do we implement all of these recommendations? While the answer is unquestionably through greater commitment on the part of Africa itself, it is also through development partners' respect

for their own commitments, a conclusion shared by the Secretary-General's report on NEPAD, the outcome document of the High-level Meeting on the MDGs (resolution 65/1), the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries and the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group.

Before I conclude, allow me to add a few words on agenda item 13, "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa", the subject of a note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/66/169 and of the second part of this joint debate. There are basically three areas in the report that drew our attention, namely, section III, on funding the fight against malaria; section VIII, on the impact of the World Health Organization's programmes aimed at combating malaria in the African region; and section XI, which contains the report's summary and recommendations.

First, on funding, we welcome the increase in disbursements, which increased from $0.3 billion in 2003 to $1.8 billion in 2010. I welcome the commitment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the United States Agency for International Development. However, despite such progress, I must note that the total level of funding is lower than the annual sum sought in the Global Malaria Action Plan.

With respect to the impact of existing programmes, we are gratified to see the progress made. In general terms, the current trends, if confirmed, tend to demonstrate that intensive anti-malaria efforts could help many African countries.

Finally, the Secretary-General's recommendations are of genuine interest to my delegation. They include intensifying the battle by distributing pre-treated mosquito nets and diagnostic tests, access to combination therapy, continuing to seek foreign aid, greater respect for regulations governing the quality of medicines on the market, and capacity-building within health ministries, to name but a few. All those measures would buttress national efforts to combat malaria.

I wish to reiterate my delegation's gratitude to the Secretary-General and to convey to him, his Special Envoy for Malaria, the Director-General of the World Health Organization and all those operating in the field our encouragement in their efforts to combat malaria.

To conclude, as my delegation has had cause to state in the past with respect to NEPAD and the fight against malaria, the United Nations needs to develop an articulate action plan that includes a matrix establishing a planning period of two or three years for all contributions to the implementation of these programmes, accompanied by clear-cut reference to benchmarks and the distribution of roles, so that at the end of the process we can gauge how far we have come and how much remains to be done. The office of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria, which we commend for its arduous work, must begin preparing such a matrix.

Mr. Kebret (Ethiopia): Permit me at the outset to express our appreciation to the President for convening this plenary meeting of great importance to Africa and to fully associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the Group of African States on the agenda items under consideration.

Ethiopia welcomes the two reports of the Secretary-General on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/66/202) and on the cause of conflicts, the promotion of peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/66/214). We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports, which review progress made in the implementation of the development projects, programmes, strategies and challenges faced by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) over the past decade, as well as the steps that need to be taken to achieve greater progress in the years ahead.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of NEPAD, Ethiopia is pleased to note that NEPAD has made significant progress in terms of owning and leading its strategies and programmes in areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, health and education, and in laying a solid foundation for sound socio-economic development in Africa. NEPAD's sector-specific programmes, particularly in agriculture and infrastructure, are indeed critical to this progress and to the overall achievements obtained in other equally important areas of development.

On the good governance front, NEPAD has also demonstrated its useful support to Africa in its efforts to further promote, respect and protect fundamental human rights and freedoms by implementing programmes aimed at improving good political and

economic governance throughout the continent. In this regard, we are encouraged to note that 30 African countries have already acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and that 14 African countries, including my own, have submitted their reports for review by APRM. We wish to take this opportunity to encourage other African countries that have not yet done so to accede to the APRM and to present their national reports.

As the Secretary-General indicates in his reports, Africa's leadership and commitment to social progress, sustained economic growth and good governance reforms are slowly but surely changing perceptions of the continent in the right and positive direction. However, the impact of pockets of conflict in different parts of the continent and widespread poverty still undermine Africa's successful efforts to change its image.

With regard to resources to support development programmes, African countries have committed themselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals through, inter alia, the allocation of 10 per cent of their budgets to agriculture, 15 per cent to health and 20 per cent to education. We would like to recognize and express our gratitude for the support of the United Nations and development partners to NEPAD programmes and for their continued commitment to advancing NEPAD's vision.

However, much remains to be done if Africa is to extricate itself from the deep-rooted poverty and the economic problems it faces and assume its rightful place in the international community. The high rates of unemployment and the limited access to energy continue to hamper the continent's ability to create wealth and jobs. In this regard, we share the Secretary-General's view that firm determination and leadership are required from all of us — Africans, African countries and our international development partners — in order to achieve the goals that NEPAD has set out for Africa's rapid economic integration and development.

As clearly indicated in the Secretary-General's reports, Africa's share of global trade and incoming foreign direct investment is only 4 per cent. Ethiopia underlines the important role of trade and investment in promoting economic growth and bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy. It is our hope and expectation that the long overdue Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations should be accelerated with a view to creating a conducive and enabling environment.

It is exactly 11 years since the international community expressed its determination to effectively address the serious impact of malaria on developing countries, particularly in Africa. Over the years, a broad range of national and international actions has been under taken to tackle this deadly disease.

As is known, the impact of this disease on socio-economic development remains significant despite considerable political attention and financial support available at the national, regional and international levels. There is a need for enhanced financial, technical and other forms of assistance from the international community to ensure sustainable development in Africa.

Malaria is one of the major public health problems of my country. Approximately 68 per cent of our population lives in malaria-prone areas and 75 per cent of our land mass is malaria-infested. Recognizing the adverse impact of the malaria epidemic on socio-economic development efforts, malaria prevention and control programmes in Ethiopia have been the priority in our health sector. We have adopted a 10-year national strategic plan aimed at rapidly scaling up malaria control interventions to achieve a 50 per cent reduction of the malaria problem within this specified time frame.

The deployment of over 30,000 health extension workers for health-care service delivery at the community level is part of our national efforts to control the disease. As a result, malaria-caused deaths have declined substantially, falling by 55 per cent since 1990, and the effective scale-up of malaria prevention and treatment has also achieved a dramatic decline in outpatient malaria cases.

Before I conclude, I would like reiterate our commitment to continuing to work with other African countries and the international community to translate into reality NEPAD's long-term vision and to support its strategies and programmes designed to help Africa's socio-economic development endeavours.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with resolution 49/2 of 19 October 1994, I now call on the observer of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Ms. Oosterhof (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies): The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) statement concerns the agenda item on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies welcomes the note by the Secretary-General (A/66/169) transmitting the World Health Organization report on the progress made in addressing the goals towards malaria control over the past decade. The findings are cause for optimism and demonstrate that approaches of our global response to malaria work.

Since 2002, the IFRC and its 186 member national societies, in partnership with other organizations, have contributed to these successes by distributing more than 15 million mosquito nets, protecting 25.5 million people and preventing more than 420,000 malaria deaths. As a member of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, we welcome the positive results outlined by the Partnership's report released in September. The findings tell us that working in partnership is effective and has created a foundation that will allow for even greater results in the years to come.

Despite the many successes in combating malaria, we recognize that malaria remains one of the most devastating global public health challenges and continues to have an impact on the lives of poor, young and vulnerable people, thereby affecting the future of many developing countries.

In order to sustain the advances made, the IFRC welcomes the forward-looking recommendations highlighted in the report transmitted by the Secretary-General's note. As stated in the report, it is important to recognize that "[a]t the heart of all malaria control programmes are people" (*A/66/169, para. 73*). From our long-standing experience, we reaffirm that if malaria control programmes are to succeed, the engagement of people in communities is essential.

This is why the Red Cross and Red Crescent contribution to scaling up malaria prevention is focused on social mobilization, communication and direct assistance to people and households in communities. Every year, Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies reach millions of people and households through community-based activities. The direct delivery of services and active engagement empower caregivers and families with increased knowledge and enable communities to make informed decisions, recognize danger signs and take timely action. This work would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the volunteers who consistently carry out household visits and net distributions. In 2010 alone, over 18,000 Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers reached more than 6.2 million people with malaria messaging.

Community volunteers are able to facilitate behavioural change by combining net distributions with training, which ensures correct and consistent prevention practices. Our so-called flagship programmes of "Hang Up" and "Keep Up" campaigns have significantly contributed to reducing the incidence of malaria, especially when reaching the most vulnerable groups, such as those living in remote areas, refugees and people affected by stigma and discrimination.

Good programming is only made better by good data. This year, the IFRC piloted the roll-out of a management survey tool. The tool uses mobile phones for data collection and can provide information on progress and gaps in project implementation. By using data-driven programming, it will be possible to improve the implementation of malaria prevention programmes and support progress to be made in the years to come.

In order to sustain global and national progress in combating malaria, our key message is that communities must own the activities that support the prevention and treatment of malaria. When community-based volunteers provide knowledge, prevention and treatment options, communities are genuinely empowered to be the most effective first responders to this disease.

Community ownership reinforces positive, healthy behaviours and can address barriers to healthy behaviour changes. Therefore, to ensure long-term sustainable results, we underline the importance of facilitating malaria prevention from a top-down, scale-up phase to a bottom-up, community-driven phase. By facilitating an enabling environment and strengthening the role of communities, we can move closer to achieving the internationally agreed goals, such as the health-related Millennium Development Goals, the goals set out by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and

those articulated in the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent, in partnership, will continue to support and improve effective malaria prevention. We remain committed to building on the successes gained while keeping malaria high on the health agenda at the global, regional, national and, in particular, community levels.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on the three agenda items under consideration. I shall now give a summary of our meeting.

We have heard a total of 30 speakers from Member States, one from an intergovernmental organization and one from a non-governmental organization. One after the other, they have thanked the Secretary-General for his reports, in particular that (A/66/202) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which marks the tenth anniversary of that programme. Member States have thereby joined together in celebrating the tenth anniversary of NEPAD by welcoming the progress achieved and highlighting their commitment to supporting this programme and to Africa's sustainable development. Delegations welcomed NEPAD's achievements and the crucial role of regional economic communities and of African States themselves in its implementation.

Delegations highlighted the progress achieved at both the macroeconomic and sector-specific levels and through democratic good governance and good economic practices, as shown through the return to constitutional order in various States and the Arab Spring. Delegations highlighted the potential for growth of the African economy represented by NEPAD. In this respect, delegations underlined the exceptional economic growth of the first decade, the efforts agreed upon and the results achieved in agriculture through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and in infrastructure, women's independence, human resources development, education, health care and information and communications technology.

Delegations welcomed efforts aimed at promoting economic and political governance through the African Peer Review Mechanism as a crucial pillar of socio-economic development in Africa. A number of delegations recalled that, in spite of the progress achieved, Africa continues to face persistent challenges. Those include the global economic and financial crisis, climate change, the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, official development assistance, the weak efforts of development partners to honour their commitments and promises, the deadlock in the multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round, infrastructure and agriculture development, and the problem of youth unemployment.

To respond to those many challenges, Member States recalled the importance of industrial development, increased investment in infrastructure and agriculture development, the mobilization of the continent's resources, the promotion of South-South cooperation to complement traditional assistance, the strengthening of the capacities of continental and regional institutions, the promotion of market access, and development-oriented outcomes in multilateral trade negotiations.

On the subject of assistance, delegations underscored the importance not only of honouring prior commitments but also of going far beyond the provision of assistance through a strategy aimed at reducing the dependence of African countries on aid and improving development effectiveness. A number of delegations also expressed their support for the implementation of a strengthened mechanism to follow up commitments to development in Africa.

Delegations further emphasized their full commitment to continuing to support NEPAD's efforts towards Africa's development. Delegations welcomed the efforts under way within the United Nations system, including those under the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, towards NEPAD's implementation.

(*spoke in English*)

I would like to congratulate all participants for the stimulating discussion we have had today. The discussion has illustrated Member States' strong solidarity and good will in supporting African development. Many delegations commended the increasing cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, which has proven significant in addressing many of the challenges to peace and security in Africa. Member States called for a comprehensive approach to tackling the interconnected challenges of peace and development by addressing the causes of conflict, including their socio-economic impact.

Focus on the roll-back of malaria added a special dimension to our joint debate. Some Members States called for a comprehensive approach to eradicating malaria and ensuring funding sustainability in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Malaria remains a global challenge to be tackled by global endeavours.

As I conclude this summary, I would like to quote the statement delivered by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Caribbean Community, in which he noted that:

> "As Africa charts its way forward, the continued support of the international community remains vital to its success. But that success will not be Africa's alone; the fruits of progress on the continent will inevitably contribute to progress in other parts of the world" (*A/66/PV.32*).

(*spoke in French*)

The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 63 and its sub-items (a) and (b) and agenda item 13.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

United Nations A/66/PV.34

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

34th plenary meeting
Monday, 17 October 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 11

Sport for peace and development

(a) Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

Draft resolution (A/66/L.3)

The Acting President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Lord Coe of Ranmore, Chair of the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.3.

Lord Coe (United Kingdom): I stand before the Assembly today as someone who has dedicated his life to sport and the Olympic movement, as an athlete and now as Chairman of the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games in 2012. It is a real honour to be here this morning to introduce, ahead of the London 2012 Games, draft resolution A/66/L.3, entitled "Sport for peace and development: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", also known as the Olympic Truce resolution.

On behalf of the people of the United Kingdom, the British Government, the Mayor of the host city, London, and the British Olympic Association, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the support that the members of the General Assembly have already provided for this draft resolution. The text is the result of consultations with all Member States, conducted in a spirit of openness and transparency. Their feedback and support strengthened the text, which we proudly present today, and I thank all delegations for their cooperation and collaboration, and particularly the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, who, under the co-chairmanship of Monaco and Tunisia, have helped to steer the draft resolution to this point.

The pursuit of a better, more peaceful world has always been at the heart of the Olympic vision. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founding father of the modern Olympic Movement, saw in the Games a great opportunity

> "to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport .... [And] to create a way of life based on the joy found in the effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal, fundamental ethical principles".

Today, more than a century later, those principles are as valid and as relevant as ever. The extraordinary level of co-sponsorship of this year's Olympic Truce draft resolution — all 193 members of the Assembly — is a sign of hope and support for the timeless values symbolized by the Truce and the Olympic Movement,

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and a testament to the relevance of the Truce and the Olympic Games in a time of global challenge.

But in those challenges also lies opportunity. Throughout history, great political, technological, cultural, artistic and other advances have emerged from times of adversity. The United Nations emerged from World War II; satellite technology from the Cold War; even great jazz from the Great Depression. We always need to search for new ways of thinking and acting. The Olympic Truce, and the Olympic values and programmes that support it, really can promote peace.

Sport is one of those forces that can still offer real hope, both collective and individual. It has many roles, such as the quiet, deft diplomat, or even the hidden peacemaker. And, for over a century, the modern Olympic Movement has given voice to the positive values of humanity, not merely reflecting change but driving it. The Olympic Movement forges links well beyond traditional social and diplomatic structures or geographic boundaries.

It would be folly to suggest that sport provides a complete answer, a panacea for all our social ills. But it can and does help mend broken communities, rebuild trust, rediscover self-respect and foster the values at the core of our common humanity. And there are the powerful examples of sport breaking through man-made barriers of ignorance and hate — none better than Jesse Owens shattering the myth of racism at the Olympic Games of 1936.

I competed in the Moscow Games in 1980 — due in large part to the visionary determination of the late Juan Antonio Samaranch, then President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), to take the Games into the then Soviet Union — sport helping to foster understanding and create an extended network of new friendship, association and opportunity across ideological and geographic divides. North and South Korean athletes marched together into the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympics, again demonstrating the power of sport to bring people together, in a way that politicians alone could not.

It has never been more important to support this General Assembly draft resolution by actions, not just through words. Between now and the Games, the United Kingdom Government will lead a wide range of activities to promote peaceful development. It has committed about $36 million to deliver an innovative global sports programme called International Inspiration. Aimed at young people from all backgrounds, it goes to the heart and soul of our vision for the London 2012 Games and, of course, the Olympic Truce.

International Inspiration has already reached out to more than 12 million young people in 15 countries, through a unique partnership involving UNICEF, national Olympic committees and British Government agencies, and four more countries have recently joined the programme. It is improving sports systems in developing countries, increasing school attendance and enhancing educational performance. It has empowered girls and young women to participate in sport, access education and become community leaders. It has increased self-esteem and confidence and raised awareness of HIV/AIDS and other threats to health. International Inspiration has also supported reconciliation by hosting sports events in camps for young people who have been displaced by conflict. It has also offered purpose and anchor points that have helped street children transform their lives.

Closer to home, our Olympic and Paralympic education programme, Get Set, is bringing alive in British schools and communities the Olympic and Paralympic values of friendship, respect, excellence, courage and determination. It is promoting social inclusion, health and physical activity and tackling bullying and gang culture.

I am also very proud that the draft resolution strongly highlights how sport enhances the lives of those who live with disabilities — and how much they contribute to the world of sport. The passion and determination of Paralympic athletes is an inspiration to us all.

We look forward to working with the IOC, other Member States and civil society on further activities to promote the Truce. These will be designed to help find local solutions to local challenges and contribute to long-term peace and stability.

We applaud the work of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his officials, notably his Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, Wilfried Lemke, and his team. With IOC President Jacques Rogge, they are finding new ways to develop communities and build peace through sport. In particular, we are grateful for their promotion of gender equality, inclusion of people living with disabilities, prevention of HIV and AIDS and other diseases, environmental sustainability,

and peace and conflict resolution. We encourage others to support Mr. Lemke's mandate and his work.

The working partnership between the United Nations and the Olympic Movement is closer than ever, as evidenced by the IOC's recent admission as an Observer in the Assembly and by day-to-day cooperation among the IOC, Olympic Organizing Committees and United Nations agencies. This deepening relationship gives a new significance to initiatives like the Olympic Truce. It provides opportunities for greater collaboration among United Nations Member States through sport-related programmes, which we know can make a real difference to the lives of young people and their communities.

The United Kingdom had the honour of hosting the Olympic Games in 1948, when the world had been shattered by global conflict and still simmered with tension and hostility. In fact, the route of the Olympic Torch to London had to be altered to allow for safe passage through parts of Europe. Today, we cannot ignore the continuing spectre of conflict around the world. Through this draft resolution, anchored in the original spirit of de Coubertin's vision, we can, together, take active steps to ensure that the Olympics continue to serve the cause of peace.

The vision for the London 2012 Games and the Truce is focused on young people and on giving them a voice. So I would like to leave the Assembly with a message from two young people who represent that vision: Amber Charles, a Londoner now studying in America on a sports scholarship, and Ali Mohamed, who has been recently elected as Young Mayor by the young people of Newham, one of the host boroughs for the London Games. Both of them are with us today as members of our official delegation. Amber and Ali have asked me to give the Assembly this message:

> "The Truce helps to show the world that peace is a possibility. It shows the power that sport has to inspire unity, mutual understanding and respect among different types of people. Countries should feel an obligation to respect the Truce, because it holds true to the idea that we can coexist without the need for discrimination and fighting. It gives us something to strive towards outside of the Olympics and the arena of sport."

I cannot think of a more appropriate way to conclude this introduction of the draft resolution, or to highlight the importance of support for the Truce, than to quote one of the iconic figures of our time, Nelson Mandela, a long-time friend of the Olympic Movement and a supporter of the Games in London next year. "Sport", he said, "has the power to change the world. (...) Sport can create hope. (...) It is an instrument for peace".

Mr. Mitsialis (Greece): Since its inception, the ideal of the Olympic Games has been inextricably linked with the idea of the Truce. When King Ifitos of the ancient city of Olympia, concerned about the plague of war that was devastating the region, consulted the oracle of Delphi, the answer was unequivocal. A competitive sports event was the means to replace hostilities by peace. A peace agreement, signed by all the kings of the city-States in the region was placed in a holy shrine and the first Olympic Truce became a reality. Despite the difficulties that this project has encountered through the centuries, the tradition of ekecheiria — as the Truce was called in Greek — survived for 1,200 years, until the fourth century A.D., when the ancient Olympic Games came to an inglorious end.

Pierre de Coubertin's historic initiative to revive the Olympic Games in the modern era proved that the seed of Truce was alive and meant to blossom. But the two World Wars and numerous conflicts around the globe did not allow the idea of the Truce to thrive until the early 1990s, when the first United Nations resolution on the matter was adopted (resolution 48/11). Greece, a staunch supporter of the idea of the Olympic Truce, closely worked with the International Olympic Committee for the establishment in July 2000 of the International Olympic Truce Foundation and its operational arm, the International Olympic Truce Centre.

The embrace of the concept of the Olympic Truce by the United Nations was the conclusion of a long effort and, at the same time, the beginning of a new phase for the Truce. Having started in classical times as a precondition for the holding of the Olympic Games, in the process the Truce became a self-standing concept, closely associated with efforts to achieve world peace. Let us not forget that, as things stand today, the Olympic Truce remains — even just for a short period of time — the most far-reaching peace agreement in our globalized world. We therefore have the moral duty to acknowledge its importance, raise awareness of it and guarantee its implementation.

In our era, defined by the many challenges we face, the Olympic Truce, the harbinger of peace, tries to chart a course through the vagaries of world politics. Draft resolution A/66/L.3, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", urges all Member States to observe the Olympic Truce during the next Olympic Games. At the same time, it brings to the forefront the problems that our contemporary societies have to overcome, and that sport can help to solve, although only to a certain extent. If world peace is the ultimate aim, then civic peace, economic growth and social inclusion and integration are intermediate stages that need first to be passed through before the ultimate goal can be achieved.

Next year, for the third time in the modern era, London will have the honour of hosting the Olympic Games. Compared to the last London Games, in 1948, when the world was emerging from the nightmare of war, the global situation today is fundamentally different, although it certainly remains very challenging. In many parts of the planet, we are witnessing the ongoing quest of humankind for freedom, human rights and a decent life. The Olympic Games in London certainly remind us that humankind as a whole should tackle its problems in a spirit of solidarity and brotherhood, in the same way that athletes compete in sports. At this point, let us all wish London every success in this difficult endeavour.

In ancient Greece the Truce was proclaimed throughout the city States by a special herald. In our times, let this draft resolution be the herald to remind all Member States of their obligations emanating from the Charter of the United Nations to refrain from waging war and to adhere to all principles that guarantee world peace.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Sport is not only a benchmark for measuring social development, it also serves as a bridge to promote communication among people of different countries. Given the unrelenting emergence of global issues and the close interdependence of developing countries, there is consensus among all on the goal of strengthening exchanges, dialogue and mutual understanding among civilizations. That consensus heightens the relevance and importance of the General Assembly taking up the agenda item entitled "Sport for peace and development".

China is of the view that the international community should place the issue of sport on the agenda of global cooperation for development. China attaches importance to the General Assembly's deliberations on sport for peace and development, appreciates the work of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser and will do its utmost to support United Nations endeavours in the area of sport for development.

Sport has a role to play in promoting social development and maintaining world peace. The international community should incorporate sport into the global cooperation agendas, such as peacekeeping operations, development, education, public heath, gender equality and the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities. It is also imperative to better utilize the role of sport in promoting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

China believes that upholding the Olympic spirit contributes to the settling of global crises. Crises cannot be resolved without the consensus of the parties involved. Mutual understanding and respect are the prerequisite for consensus. The concepts of unity, friendship and fair competition, advocated by the Olympic Games, have emerged as the common values and pursuit of all of humankind.

To fundamentally address the financial crisis and other global issues, countries must continue to abide by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, uphold the Olympic spirit, respect cultural diversity, enhance mutual understanding, settle disputes through peaceful means and work together towards a world of equality and harmony.

The XXX Olympiad will be held in London in 2012. China wishes the London Olympic and Paralympic Games a complete success.

Although three years have passed since Beijing hosted the Olympic Games, the legacy of the Beijing Olympics is still very much in evidence. The legacy of the Beijing Olympic Games is not just limited to the large number of landmark sports facilities. The Games have also substantially promoted mass fitness programmes, urban planning, public health, environmental protection and a host of other important undertakings in China.

The Olympic spirit has spread far and wide among the Chinese people. China has designated 8 August, the opening date of the Beijing Olympics, as China's national fitness day. That is a solemn commitment made by the Chinese Government to developing China's sports endeavours.

China has hosted many sporting events in recent years, including the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzho, the 2011 Shenzhen University Games and the eighth National Games for Persons with a Disability from China, which is currently being held in Hangzhou. In 2014, China will host the second Youth Olympic Games.

This is the first year of the implementation of China's twelfth five-year plan for economic and social development. China's sport endeavours are also at a new historic turning point. The Chinese Government will continue to integrate sport into its national development strategy and provide more and better public sport services to its people. In the meantime, China will continue to play a positive role in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace and make vigorous efforts to advance international cooperation in sport for development, thereby contributing to world peace and development.

Mr. Singh Rawat (India): I am privileged to participate in today's debate on sport for peace and development and would like to thank the General Assembly for providing me with this opportunity to do so.

Sport is an important element in building character. Apart from ensuring fitness and a healthy lifestyle, it helps motivate young people, teaches them to work in a spirit of partnership with others, develops leadership skills and promotes a sense of team spirit. Sport also helps foster peace and a feeling of equality and friendship among all people and nations. There can be no more powerful medium than sport to inspire and bring people together for a common purpose.

The intrinsic linkage between sport and games and the human quest for excellence was recognized at the very inception of human civilization. It reached its high point in ancient Greece, which was the birthplace of the modern Olympic Movement. Sport, games and physical fitness have also been an integral part of Indian heritage, evident even today in the highly evolved system of yoga and the vast range of indigenous games and martial arts practiced in different parts of India since time immemorial.

After Indian independence, in 1947, the first five-year plan gave due importance to physical education and sport and emphasized its integration in the formal education system. In addition, as part of our efforts to expand participation in sport and encourage the creation of a modern sport infrastructure, in 2001 India adopted a national sport policy. In India today, all segments of our society, including the media and the business sector, are actively involved in the promotion of sport. We have also been encouraging the autonomous functioning of our national sport federations.

Sport is an effective tool that helps to achieve development objectives in the areas of health, education, child protection and child development. In addition, it helps to generate public awareness and inspires broad, inclusive and committed action in support of the development agenda.

I am glad to note that, today, the value of sport in helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is well recognized, and that many sport personalities have associated themselves with the United Nations in creating public awareness and understanding of various issues that affect youth and society. In that context, I would like to draw attention to our national cricket icon, Sachin Tendulkar, who is a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme, and our former tennis star, Vijay Amritraj, who was a United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2001.

In the recent past, India successfully hosted the XIX Commonwealth Games, an event that featured participation from 71 countries and more than 7,000 athletes, who celebrated sporting excellence, human skill and endurance and, above all, courage and character. The Games upheld and renewed the essential spirit of peace, equality and friendship among all people and nations.

Recognizing the importance of sport in building a peaceful and better world, India has sponsored the draft resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" (A/66/L.3), which will be adopted today. We sincerely believe that all sporting events strengthen the cherished ties of goodwill and understanding that unite us as one family.

Ms. Flores (Honduras) (*spoke in Spanish*): We congratulate the Secretary-General on his reports (A/66/280 and A/66/273) on the topics being discussed today, which complement each other and are of vital importance to many countries, including Honduras. Peace, development, culture and sport are legitimate aspirations of our peoples, and they underpin our commitment to participate in and promote the development of those ideals around the world.

None other than Nelson Mandela can remind us with more authority that

> "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair."

How true those words are. There are few activities that can, like sport, so effectively instil the binding values of human coexistence. A mere glance at the rainbow of crowds in any stadium or sport complex shows that sport produces, if only for a few moments, a kind of magic that erases ethnic differences, social inequalities, economic disparities and political, ideological and religious differences.

The presence of small countries such as ours is rarely felt beyond national borders, except in the event of a scandal generated by a news item, but we have been able to stand out because of sport. Although it has been only for a few passing moments, since we are not at the top of any global agenda, thanks to sport, our people have been soothed by the comforting balm of applause and admiration.

How often the polarization of conflicts, acrimonious disputes, internal divisions, disparities across various sectors and special interests clouds the vision required to achieve unity of purpose or the common goals cherished by humankind. Nevertheless, for those few fleeting but resonant moments when we have witnessed our athletes proudly wearing our national colours and uniforms emblazoned with our national symbols in international sporting competitions, every heart in my country beats as one.

We are well aware of the temptations that beckon to our young people today, even more so in environments rife with unemployment, crime and delinquency and lacking opportunities. The children of poverty, the victims of backwardness and social exclusion, must face some hard realities in order to climb out of the hole and better themselves, sometimes just to survive. Anyone so desperate would be swayed by the prospect of taking a shortcut, which is the easy but the wrong way out. Every child and young person in whom we can awaken a passion for playing any sport is a child or young person less likely to be recruited into a life characterized by vice, drugs or by any other social ills that corrupt the soul and unravel the healthy fabric of our society.

A football field can do so much good in one of those neighbourhoods wracked by extreme poverty, or in the remote and forgotten corners of my own Honduras. It is moving to see the wide smiles on the dirty faces of the children, who in their little hearts feel that a soccer ball and a patch of dusty ground, with three wooden goalposts at each end, can miraculously lift their spirits and even change their lives.

I have seen that vision. Together with a team of volunteers and thanks to the support of generous donors, each year we sponsor a soccer tournament, a national world cup and a round of sporting events that bring together the students of many public schools in our capital city. The experiences are indescribable: enthusiasm, the convergence of hopes and yearnings, an awakening of the senses. When the children compete and share, the field lights up with spontaneous outbursts of camaraderie and love that are impossible to recount. It is as if the alchemy of this activity alone could turn everyone into important members of one great family.

The promotion of sport is one of the United Nations great contributions to building a culture of peace. We recognize the work of the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, created in January 2005 as an open forum for the representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. We commend the Permanent Representatives of Monaco and Tunisia and their Governments on their initiatives in support of sport and peace and on their efforts to promote the Olympic Truce, with a view to using sport as a means of accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We also commend the United Kingdom for having coordinated the work on draft resolution A/66/L.3.

In our national plan of action, we propose that young people play a leading and responsible role in

transforming our national reality to one in which human rights are respected and upheld, where natural resources are protected and sensibly used and developed, and where all forms of life and cultural diversity are respected. That reality must also be about building peace and forging national unity, and about Central American and Latin American integration and our desire to build a more prosperous, developed, democratic and just homeland. However, we must re-evaluate and improve the focus of some United Nations assistance programmes, and effectively use sport in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

If we are able to replace battlefields and theatres of conflict with stadiums, fields and scenarios in which rivalries can be diluted by competitive sport and where tolerance nourishes coexistence, we will have created a less hostile world and opportunities for peace.

Mrs. Dunlop (Brazil): Allow me at the outset to commend the work of the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace at the United Nations, headed by the delegations of Monaco and Tunisia, which is aimed at strengthening the role of sports as a means to promote citizenship and friendship, which is within the reach of us all.

These efforts are closely aligned with the major initiatives and programmes undertaken by various Member States and international organizations for the advancement of sports in an integrated manner, consistent with accomplishments in the social fields.

For Brazilians, an exciting sports-centred decade has just begun. Over the next five years, Brazil will host three sporting mega-events: the Confederations Cup, in 2013; the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup, in 2014; and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in 2016. During this decade, sports will be at the top of our national agenda, adding value across our social, political, economic and cultural policies.

These sporting events will not only enhance relations with our partners both regionally and worldwide, but will first and foremost bring together the international community around a celebration of the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

The Brazilian Government is well aware that these sporting mega-events involve extensive preparation processes and complex operations. We are warming up to meet these challenges.

In 2014, Brazil will host the FIFA World Cup for the second time since the first post-war tournament, in 1950. We are an ethnically diverse society, unified by a single language that is spoken over more than 8.5 million km^2. We are now almost 200 million people who live together peacefully and at peace with our neighbours. We are proud of our consolidated democracy and of our sustainable, growing economy as a means of overcoming historical inequalities and improving the quality of life of all Brazilians.

Rio de Janeiro is greatly honoured to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Games are the single biggest sporting event ever staged in the city. It is estimated that its opening ceremony alone will be watched by more than 4 billion people. Rio de Janeiro is taking on the challenge and plans to develop innovative and sustainable practices to address carbon and energy use; water services and waste management; and air quality and rational transportation. The Games will certainly be a catalyst for making Rio more beautiful and hospitable.

The tangible legacy of these sporting events will be stadiums, arenas, urban mobility infrastructure, telecommunications systems, and port and airport facilities. Yet the social legacy will have other enduring features, including the positiv impact on the self-esteem of the Cariocas, the gains in education and training provided by the events experience, the strengthening of volunteering programmes and their work with underprivileged youth and elderly persons, the dissemination of a sports-oriented culture and social inclusion through sports, the improvements attained in the fields of health and safety, and increased economic activity.

Pursuant to the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled "Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace" (resolution 65/4), adopted last year with our support and co-sponsorship, Brazil is currently developing sports cooperation projects in partnership with several developing countries and remains open to expanding the scope of those programmes with the international community and in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes.

We particularly want to commend the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations for its

initiative, of which we were a sponsor since the beginning, to submit the draft resolution on "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", better known as the "Olympic Truce" draft resolution. A similar project will be submitted by Brazil in a timely manner in preparation for the Summer Olympic Games of 2016. We are also grateful for the cooperation rendered by the United Kingdom in connection with the project "London 2012 and Rio 2016: Olympic sustainability exchange".

The Brazilian Government is committed to fostering and adopting public policies aimed at ensuring that hosting these sporting events will promote development and social inclusion, as we believe that sports can be an important means of achieving these goals.

Mr. León González (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Sports represents an important aspect of development at both the national and international levels. Cuba believes that sports definitely strengthens solidarity and friendship among peoples, which are essential components in the promotion of peace, development and cooperation among nations.

Sports is one of the most effective ways of fostering the well-being and health of our citizens. However, these benefits will not be available to all if we continue to commercialize sports as just another business and one that is available only to a small minority.

Beginning with the triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959, sports ceased to be an exclusive activity in our country; it became the right of all people. This has allowed our country to register major successes in regional and international competitions, despite being a small developing State. Just to cite a few examples, since 1971 Cuba has held strong in second place at the Pan-American Games, and for several decades we have been among the top 10 countries at the Olympic Games. We have 69 medals in these Games, and we hold 21 world records.

In the context of exercising the right to sports, we have set up an educational system that incorporates physical education as part and parcel of shaping human beings at all stages of life. We are working to provide sports training to children from a very young age, which allows us to develop the talents of those that stand out as future athletes and achieve the major sports accomplishments that we have in the international arena.

We also oppose the holding of sports activities for money's sake. Thus we condemn the theft of sporting talent of which the developing countries are the victims. For years, the Cuban sports movement, led by the Cuban Olympic Committee and the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation, has engaged in selfless cooperation with many countries of the South by providing technical experts, professors and coaches who unassumingly, on the basis of bilateral agreements, offer new methods for sports training that have positive results and popularize sports, in addition to developing strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood among peoples.

We have also strengthened international cooperation by making available to the countries of the South our Institute for Sports Medicine and our Anti-Doping Laboratory. Our goal is to contribute to the fight against the scourge of drugs and doping, which are contrary to the ideals of sport, corrupt athletes and trainers and impede fair play. In that regard, we underscore the traditional opposition of Cuban athletes, at all levels and in all sports, to that illegal practice.

Cuba founded the International School for Physical Education and Sports to train professionals, who, in keeping with a fundamental principle of solidarity, can return home to transform physical education and sport in their countries.

Cuba welcomes the Pan-American Games, which are being held now in Guadalajara, Mexico — with a large Cuban delegation participating. We also wish the greatest success to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in hosting the upcoming London Olympic Games in 2012. We want to underscore, too, that developing countries also deserve to host important international events, including the Olympic Games, the single most important international forum for brotherhood and solidarity through sport, free of commercial interests. We know that the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will represent a success for the entire South.

If we promote international solidarity, including through the Olympic ideal, all the weapons created by civilization will be rendered superfluous. Let us promote and sow ideas. Let us all share the hope that a

better, more just and equitable world of solidarity is possible.

Mr. Ong (Singapore): Singapore will welcome the successful adoption of draft resolution A/66/L.3, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal". Singapore is pleased to sponsor this meaningful draft resolution.

Much has been said about how sport can play a crucial role in the efforts of the United Nations to improve the lives of people around the world. It builds bridges between individuals and across communities, creating fertile ground for sowing the seeds of camaraderie and peace. By promoting a philosophy of life based on the Olympic values of striving for excellence, demonstrating respect and celebrating friendship, Olympism shows that sport can help to build a better world. By promoting friendly rivalry through competitive sport rather than combat, since their inception the Olympic Games have been associated with promoting peace. Today, the Games enjoy a very important symbolic value in that regard.

Singapore is very honoured to associate ourselves with the Olympic Movement through our hosting of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games from 14 to 26 August 2010. The Youth Games, brainchild of International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge, aims to inspire and engage a young generation that is increasingly spending less time on sport. "Inspiring youth, sporting Singapore" — those four simple words express the essence of the Youth Games in Singapore. From the start, the vision for the Youth Games was an event filled with unforgettable experiences, which would inspire all 3,530 youth athletes, and their families and communities, to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect in their lives. The Youth Games also emphasized learning Olympic values through sport and applying those values to life beyond sport. The message was clear: Everyone can make the world better — no deed is too small.

In organizing the Youth Games in Singapore, the intention was to create something of value to the Olympic Movement and the youth of the world. Our motto, "Inspiring youth", therefore took on a double meaning. The Games would inspire young people; at the same time, the young people themselves would inspire others through their spirit, character and physical talent. That led the Singapore Youth Games Organizing Committee and its partners to create innovative initiatives that would commemorate not only victories but also participation.

The Culture and Education Programme, a defining element of the Youth Games, which comprised over 50 interactive activities — along the lines of the five educational themes of Olympism of skills development, well-being, healthy lifestyle, social responsibility and expression — provided opportunities for the athletes to learn more about the host country and each other's culture and history. The Programme highlighted the value of understanding and appreciating different backgrounds and societies and of building and sustaining friendships that can flourish across borders. When our youth develop their confidence, belief and determination to succeed on the playing field and then champion those values and convictions to make a positive impact in their communities, they will inspire the building of a better and more peaceful world.

The Youth Games is a living and colourful laboratory for some of life's most enduring lessons. At the Youth Games in Singapore, Britain's gymnast Sam Oldham showed tenacity by winning gold despite a surprise loss earlier in the competition. The likes of Singapore's Rainer Ng and Jordan's Dana Touran — both silver medallists, in swimming and Taekwondo, respectively — showed that smaller nations can make a large impression too. Athletes like China's Gu Yuting and Tunisia's Adem Hmam, who teamed up in table tennis, learned what it meant to work across cultures, achieving a well-deserved bronze medal. England's volunteer Aisha Naibe-wey won deserved praise for marching over 160 kilometres to raise funds for her trip to Singapore, while 82-year-old Ajit Singh, Singapore's oldest torchbearer, learned that youth was eternal.

Our delegation looks forward to many more inspiring tales of passion and hope at future Games. In particular, the XXX Olympic Summer Games and the XIV Paralympic Summer Games in London next year are special to many Singaporeans, as the 117th IOC session, which elected the host city for the Games, was held in Singapore. We are confident that the United Kingdom will spare no effort in its preparations for the Games in the coming months. We would like to extend to the London Organizing Committee our best wishes for the success of the Olympic Games.

Mr. Kodama (Japan): At the outset, I would like to commend the United Kingdom for promoting this year's draft resolution (A/66/L.3) on the Olympic Truce. Such resolutions have become a valued tradition of the General Assembly. As a sponsor, Japan strongly supports the spirit of the draft resolution, as expressed in its title, to "Build a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal". We firmly believe that the Olympic and Paralympic Games, to be hosted by London next year, will achieve the ideals and objectives of the draft resolution.

Last August, the Basic Act on Sport entered into force in Japan. The text of the Act starts with the phrase, "Sport is a universal culture of all humankind". The objectives of the Act are to stipulate basic ideas on sport and promote comprehensive and planned policies on sport, thereby contributing to developing the physical and mental health of the people and to achieving a vibrant society and the harmonious development of international society.

In that regard, I would like to mention the Japanese women's football team, well-known as Nadeshiko Japan and the winner of this year's Fédération internationale de football Women's World Cup, held in Germany. Their best play on the pitch gave great hope and encouragement to people who facing difficult situations in the aftermath of the great earthquake and tsunamis in Japan. Nadeshiko Japan disseminated a video message expressing to the world the heartfelt thanks of the people of Japan for its support and solidarity, both through donations and by other means. That is the power of sport that we believe in.

The principles of the Basic Act on Sports include promoting an environment for persons with disabilities to participate voluntarily and actively in sport, with the necessary consideration given to the different types and levels of disabilities. Another important principle of the Act is to contribute to enhancing mutual understanding among peoples and countries, as well as international peace. Those principles are exactly in line with those of the draft resolution on the Olympic Truce to be adopted today. Based on those principles, the Basic Act on Sports stipulates that, as a matter of policy, central and local authorities shall make efforts to give advantages to persons with disabilities in sports facilities, as well as to contribute to international understanding and peace by taking the necessary measures to promote exchanges at the international level through the contribution of sport.

Finally, Tokyo has made an official bid to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. If the bid is successful, the Government of Japan will use that opportunity to further develop and strengthen the spirit of the General Assembly's resolution on the Olympic Truce.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): It is no exaggeration to say that sport is the universal human language. Its role as an ambassador for peace is extremely important, in particular when it is endowed with the noble traditions of the Olympic Truce. The importance we attach to raising future generations in a culture of peace, non-violence and tolerance shows that the Olympic ideal has lost none of its relevance, and indeed has become more significant than ever before.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to further enhanced international cooperation in sport so as to overcome national and religious enmity, to promote mutual understanding between peoples and to achieve intercivilizational harmony. We firmly believe that support for sport, including at the Government level, can be important in bringing the global community together and reaffirming the ideals and values of the sporting movement.

We welcome the call by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce so as to achieve reconciliation in regional conflicts during and after the Olympic Games. In that connection, the Russian Federation has always been a sponsor of, and wholly supports, the draft resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sports and the Olympic ideal" (A/66/L.3). We call on everyone to observe the Olympic Truce.

Building sporting links with other countries is an important part of the Russian Federation's foreign policy, as well as a matter of unwavering focus for our leadership. Encouraging as many people as possible to participate in sport and physical education is a priority in my country. We believe that sport is an excellent way to instil in young people the values of respect, tolerance and rejection of xenophobia — which is particularly important today. Sport can also protect young people from destructive influences, such as terrorism. We believe that sport should develop according to its own laws, that it should not depend on

the political environment and that it should never be used for intrigue or blackmail.

Our country is working hard to support the international and national Olympic and Paralympic Movements. We facilitate broad-based participation by our athletes in major international competitions. We are taking steps to further strengthen cooperation with national, regional and international sporting federations, organizations and clubs. This coordination is giving added impetus to the development of physical education and sport in our country. It also makes it possible for us to make creative use of our cutting-edge experience.

As the Assembly is Aware, the Russian city of Sochi was selected to host the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games in 2014. We see the selection of Sochi as recognition by the international community of the achievements of Russian sport and of our success in the socio-economic and political development of our country in recent years.

In order to ensure the adequate preparations for the Olympics and Paralympics, we have amended Russian legislation as appropriate. We have established organizational bodies and are carrying out construction work on Olympic facilities. For our country, it is not just a matter of effectively organizing the largest international sporting event in recent times, but to ensure the continued economic and social development of the entire region and build new world-class winter sports facilities. In organizing the Olympiad, we are carefully studying and applying experience of other countries, both future and previous organizers of Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to preserving the unique natural environment of the city of Sochi and improving the environment in the region where the Games will take place. It is no accident that in the call for bids the Russian Federation imposed more than 200 unique environmental obligations on contractors. In addition, in line with the views of international environmental organizations, we have decided to move the sites of many Olympic facilities to other locations.

In 2010, we saw the beginning of the longest-ever cultural Olympiad, which will involve a year of cinema, theatre, music and museums. The goal is to showcase the diversity of Russia's multi-ethnic and multifaceted culture, to achieve maximum participation in this event by Russians and to ensure that people feel that the Games belong to them.

Mr. Meek (United States of America): The United States welcomes the General Assembly's consideration today of agenda item 11, entitled "Sport for peace and development", as well as the draft resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and Olympic ideal" (A/66/L.3), of which the United States is an enthusiastic sponsor.

When we meet at international sporting events, the outcome of who wins or who loses is not nearly as important as the goodwill of participation. That is why the sponsors of the draft resolution urge everyone to reaffirm the observance of the Olympic Truce, the ancient tradition of calling for safe passage and participation for athletes and other persons at the Games, thereby mobilizing the youth of the world to the cause of peace. Since 1993, when it was first introduced, this biennial draft resolution has become the most sponsored General Assembly resolution in history.

Today, our goal is to continue to send a strong message of peace and international goodwill to the youth of the world. Sport is a truly global initiative that extends into the lives of all people, be they rich or poor, at peace or at war. Sport teaches us to be humble in victory, gracious in defeat, compassionate towards competitors, tolerant and appreciative of diversity. Moreover, international athletic competitions generate a deep sense of national pride while fostering a spirit of international solidarity.

Sport exchanges have become among the most popular exchanges in the United States Government's people-to-people exchange programmes. Our sport diplomacy builds on Secretary of State Clinton's vision of smart power diplomacy, which embraces the use of a full range of diplomatic tools, including sport, to bring people together. Through the State Department's sport exchanges, young people have discovered how success in athletics builds the self-confidence and skills required for achievement in life.

The United States will continue to reach out to youth around the world with the message of America's commitment to international understanding, cultural tolerance and mutual respect. Sport exercises a deep hold on human imagination. Sport transcends all perceived ethnic, age, gender, religious and ability

barriers. Sports reminds us of our common humanity. We will continue to look for ways to partner with civil society and the private sector to focus on sports as a means of promoting intercultural post-conflict and peacebuilding dialogues. Cultural exchanges and United States development assistance programmes will create positive change in global communities through sports. United States Agency for International Development missions have already seen the tremendous positive impact that sports can have through the adoption of sports-based programmes to help youth learn skills, develop confidence and help build communities in several least developed countries.

The United States delegation looks forward to the adoption of today's draft resolution. It also will uphold and honour the Olympic Truce, routinely proclaimed by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General for a few months, prior to the London 2012 Games.

Ms. Mezad (Israel): Throughout history, sport has served as a common language for the nations of the world. Sport fosters friendship, cooperation and harmony. It transcends our differences and reminds us of our commonality. It requires basic human values such as honour, teamwork and tolerance. As Israel's President, Shimon Peres, once said:

> "No matter if you're black or white; Muslim, Christian, Buddhist or Jewish; a man or a woman; sport is a world where you can compete without hating, where you win without killing."

Sport serves as a powerful tool to promote peace, tolerance and understanding in places of tension. It brings people together across boundaries, cultures and religions. Israel seeks to build new and lasting bridges and promote peaceful coexistence among the diverse people that make up our society, particularly between Jewish and Arab youth. The Israeli non-governmental organization Mifalot oversees more than 300 projects that use soccer to foster cohesive communities within Israeli society. Mifalot's annual sporting event brings together 20,000 young persons from Israel, the Palestinian territories and Jordan as part of an effort to change perceptions and stereotypes. The event promotes acceptance, understanding and respect. Following its remarkable success in Israel, the programme has expanded to Cameroon, Jordan, Rwanda and Haiti.

Through its activities in hundreds of educational and community frameworks, Mifalot instils moral, social and educational values among youth. It helps to improve their self-image, develop communication skills and provide them with a sense of belonging.

Sport has also been a powerful tool for progress and development. It has played an important role in advancing the Millennium Development Goals, including the promotion of gender equality. Mifalot has used sport to promote gender equality in minority communities by developing programmes for the empowerment of women. For example, in Bedouin villages in southern Israel, programmes targeting young girls have proved to be highly effective in improving their self-confidence.

Israel prides itself on its accomplishments in the area of sport for peace and hopes to expand those initiatives to other communities around the world. We are proud to be one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/66/L.3, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", which is to be adopted by the General Assembly today. Israel's interest in using sport to promote peace was reflected in the active role that we played in the negotiations for this draft. In particular, we brought forward additional language on the leadership of Olympic and Paralympic athletes and their special role in promoting peace through sport and the Olympic ideal. Athletes embody the spirit of the Olympic ideal. They can be extremely influential as role models and ambassadors for peace, and their global popularity can be used as a powerful communication platform to promote a culture of peace.

Unfortunately, not all sporting events have followed the principles laid out by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace. While it is painful to mention, we must recall the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich and the terrorists that broke into the Olympic village and killed 11 Israeli athletes, coaches and referees. The memory of that inhumane act is still felt in Israel. Today my country continues to take very significant security measures to protect our athletes abroad. It is also crucial to mention Israelis' exclusion from certain sport leagues; this exclusion represents a direct contradiction of the ideals that we speak of today.

Finally, on behalf of my country, I would like to thank the United Nations Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and

Peace, Mr. Wilfried Lemke, for his important work in encouraging dialogue, collaboration and partnership around sport for development and peace. We were honoured to host him in Israel last month.

Israel is proud of its competitive yet respectful approach to all international sporting events, and we hope that the upcoming summer Olympic Games in London will represent the true essence of sport as a way to promote tolerance and coexistence.

Israel, through its words and actions, strongly supports the concept of sport for peace and development, as well as the Olympic ideal. We call on the nations of the world to join together in these efforts. We view sport as essential for the promotion of peace and coexistence in our own State, the Middle East and the rest of the international community.

Ms. Picco (Monaco) (*spoke in French*): In 284 and 317 days, respectively, London will host the XXX Olympic Games and the XIV Paralympic Games. Countless millions of us will experience once again that particular emotion we feel at seeing hundreds of athletes entering the stadium behind their country's flag, just before one of them lights the Olympic flame in a solemn and unique gesture that unites us all.

Olympians, be they world-class athletes or ordinary participants, tell us of a unique experience, a joint human adventure full of enthusiasm in which overcoming one's personal limits and belonging to a community give the Olympic ideal its unceasingly renewed relevance — the spirit of the Games.

The lofty values of the Games, enshrined in the Olympic ideal that is being celebrated by the General Assembly today, are the same ones that should inspire our actions in favour of development and peace to achieve more equitable world for present and future generations.

The record number of sponsors for draft resolution A/66/L.3, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sports and the Olympic ideal", reflects the resolve to observe and defend the Olympic Truce, to be held from 27 July to 9 September 2012.

I wish in this respect to congratulate the delegation of the United Kingdom and the London 2012 Organizing Committee.

Let us try together to meet our commitments and to silence our weapons and end all violence for 45 days, for the benefit of the millions of civilians affected by conflict and the international community as a whole. By together upholding the Olympic ideal and by stepping up our efforts to put sport at the service of peace and development, we are consolidating the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to which we all committed ourselves to respecting when we became Members of the Organization.

In a world where disasters and crises affect development and peace, international sporting events are becoming increasingly successful. They bring peoples together and teach tolerance. I wish to congratulate our friends from New Zealand on the success of the Rugby World Cup, which will end on 23 October, and to note that on the World Cup webpage there is a link to the World Food Programme (WFP), as since 2003 the International Rugby Federation has been working with the WFP to fight hunger.

The growing success of sporting events and their impact across the world is reflected in the participation figures for the twenty-second Sportel conference, a professional sports fair for television and new media held in Monaco in 2011. A total of 2,330 participants from 67 countries and 970 companies attended, making this year's professional fair on sports media for buyers, broadcasters and advertisers the largest in the past 10 years.

On 9 May, the Principality of Monaco signed the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace in Costa Rica, in the context of cooperation between the organization Peace and Sport, the International University of Monaco and the University for Peace. Since September, the innovative partnership between these three entities has offered a multidisciplinary training programme towards a master's degree in sustainable peace through sport, which includes rigorous academic instruction on the peacekeeping process as well as an apprenticeship in field skills in conflict-affected zones and regions afflicted by extreme poverty and a lack of social cohesion.

In my capacity as co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Sport, I should like to thank Mr. Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, for his unfailing commitment to promoting efforts on the ground and cementing partnerships.

We commend the growing involvement of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in United Nations efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals and welcome the presence here today of the Permanent Observer and Vice-President of the Committee, Mr. Mario Pescante.

Before concluding, I would like to congratulate Singapore and the IOC on organizing the Youth Olympic Games in the summer of 2010, at which 3,600 young athletes aged between 14 and 16, of whom 46 per cent were girls, took part in high-level competition, mixed events and those where the teams were made up of athletes of different nations competing together in various sports, but also participating in a cultural and educational programme designed to disseminate the Olympic values, social responsibility and expression through digital media.

Getting to know the importance of hard work at a very young age, respect for others and the role of the individual in society led Her Serene Highness Princess Charlene of Monaco to become a Global Ambassador and member of the International Board of Directors of the Special Olympics, a movement synonymous with integration and respect for differences that encourages and supports those with intellectual disabilities, promoting tolerance for all and facilitating understanding and respect around the world through sport activities. The latest Special Olympics World Summer Games, which took place in Athens in July, bringing together 7,500 athletes from 185 countries supported by 25,000 volunteers, helped demonstrate the power of sport and its ability to promote inclusion and social cohesion.

Mr. Jerandi (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to express my delegation's appreciation of the Secretary-General's 2010 report entitled "Sport for development and peace: strengthening the partnerships" (A/65/270). I commend the efforts made by the United Nations in that regard, including, in particular, by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace.

I would also like to emphasize my delegation's appreciation for the ongoing, unflagging efforts of Mr. Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, with whom the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace spoke this morning at a very useful and informative meeting held at the initiative of the Group's Chair, the Permanent Representative of Monaco, to whom I pay tribute for her dynamism and efforts. I would also like to thank Mr. Mario Pescante, Permanent Observer of the International Olympic Committee, for his dedication to the cause of sport and his valuable contribution to this ideal.

Today, sport has become part of the DNA of the United Nations and an effective tool that should henceforth be included among the major topics addressed by the Organization, as we saw during the negotiations on the outcome document of the High-level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (resolution 65/1). I would like to reiterate Tunisia's resolve to continue its efforts designed to make sport, through its capacity for communication and rapprochement, a powerful channel for integration and development both nationally and internationally, as well as a means of promoting solidarity, tolerance and cultural and human diversity. I would also like to commend the attention that the Member States as a whole have given to sport and their appreciation of its universal character as a tool for promoting peace, development, education and health.

I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to warmly congratulate South Africa on its successful conduct of the 2010 World Cup, as well as to the Government of Canada for the success of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games, held in Vancouver. These events highlighted sport's ability to bring people together and to act as a catalyst for friendship and the spirit of sportsmanship among athletes and fans, whatever their origins, nationalities or beliefs.

Given the nobility of sport and its vital contribution to the emergence of new generations thirsting for physical and mental well-being, Tunisia would like to take this opportunity to urge Member States to pursue every possible measure necessary to deal with the menace of doping, which endangers both athletes' health and sport's image and credibility. We welcome the growing number of Member States that have signed the International Convention against Doping in Sport, the chief world instrument for combating this dangerous scourge, adopted at the 2005 UNESCO General Conference.

We must also ensure that young people are educated on the ethics of sport through educational systems and civil society associations and

organizations, so that sport arenas and events are not used to express slogans steeped in the vocabulary of racism, xenophobia and the rejection of others.

In order to foster that dynamic and to make sport a means for promoting universal principles for future generations, I am pleased to congratulate the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on its draft resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" (A/66/L.3), as they organize the XXX Olympic Summer Games and the XIV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in London in 2012. The draft resolution affirms respect for the Olympic Truce and the ideals of the United Nations and the Olympic Movement, namely, friendship among peoples, harmony, non-violence and non-discrimination — in other words, the uniting ideals and common denominators of the universal principles that bring us all together in the Hall.

I hope that all Member States will support the draft resolution, thereby sending a strong message to all those who work for the noble practice of sport and greatly encouraging every athlete.

Mr. Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine): Ukraine has traditionally recognized the value of sport in building a peaceful and better world and promoting tolerance, equality and understanding among people and nations. Sport is a shared public good that can, through its unique convening power, bring people together irrespective of their race, religion, political opinion or gender. The Government of Ukraine believes firmly in the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to make a real difference in people's lives, including for the most vulnerable groups.

Today more than ever, sport and physical activities take on growing significance in the context of health security. The General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, recently held in New York, recognized the threat of such diseases, which constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century. The Meeting also provided us with strong evidence of the important role that sport and physical activity play in preventing the most prevalent of those diseases.

In Ukraine, sport and physical education are considered from the broader perspective of promoting healthy lifestyles. This constitutes a strategic priority of Government policy. We believe that using holistic multisectoral approaches for sport can be a most effective way to help achieve the MDGs, including those on health and education.

For its part, Ukraine is committed to promoting sport as a means to advancing peace and development in the world. My country is considering the possibility of submitting a bid to host the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games in the Carpathian region.

I am pleased to note that in June of next year my country and Poland will co-host the fourteenth championship of the Union des Associations Européennes de Football — EURO 2012 — which will be the first such championship to be held in Eastern Europe. It is our sincere hope that this major event will renew the spirit of friendship and solidarity in the region, contributing to social progress and economic development as a whole.

In its efforts to make EURO 2012 a real celebration of football, Ukraine has launched a number of ambitious projects to construct the necessary sport facilities and infrastructure that meet the highest international standards.

We also consider EURO 2012 as an opportunity to enhance the potential of Ukrainian youth in meeting social challenges and raising their awareness, confidence and sense of responsibility. For example, the Sport and Youth Service of Ukraine has initiated a campaign on the theme "Let's do it together" to encourage interpersonal communication, healthy lifestyles and violence prevention. It also aims at organizing a series of different sporting events for children and youth, as well as building the necessary capacity.

Guided by the noble ideals and principles of the Paralympic Movement, Ukraine attaches particular importance to the use of sport as a means to rehabilitate persons with disabilities and enhance their social inclusion. The Ukraine Centre for Physical Education and Sport for Persons with Disabilities is a unique State institution that encompasses 27 regional centres, 106 local offices and 26 sport schools for children with disabilities. More than 51,000 persons with disabilities actively practice sport and use it for the purposes of rehabilitation. Ukraine is proud of our athletes with disabilities and our paralympians. Our

national team won fourth place at the 2008 Paralympic Summer Games, held in Beijing.

We emphasize the importance of the mass media in raising awareness on the values of sport and healthy lifestyles and increasing physical activity among the entire population. In that regard, our National Olympic Committee has initiated work to set up a national sport channel in Ukraine.

My delegation commends the efforts of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace aimed at advocating sport as a tool to achieve peacebuilding, development and humanitarian objectives. We express our full support for its activities.

We would also like to thank the United Kingdom for introducing the draft resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" (A/66/L.3), which Ukraine is pleased to sponsor.

Mr. Hassan (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of my Government, I would first like to express our appreciation to the Member States that have become sponsors of the important draft resolution before the Assembly, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" (A/66/L.3). That is especially significant given that the United Kingdom is to host the XXX Olympic Summer Games in 2012. The United Kingdom also had a major role in 1948, when it also hosted the Olympics and promoted the idea of participation in the Games by persons with spinal injuries, becoming a pioneer in that respect.

I should like to point out that football flourished in my country during the 1950s and early 1960s. Aden led the Arabian peninsula at the time that the United Kingdom was present in the southern part of my country. In that regard, in spite of our scarce resources, we have sought to encourage every sort of sport.

The participation of the Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee in our meeting today is proof of the importance of this subject and serves to enhance the culture of peace throughout the world.

The fact that many Member States have embraced this draft resolution is proof that sports and the Olympic ideals are a contributing factor in affirming the values and principles of sport as a way to help young people to develop their potential, provided that sports are never politicized or monopolized by a certain country.

Mr. Haron (Malaysia): We are all from different nationalities, languages, backgrounds and cultures. We each have distinct modalities and approaches in making our world and our communities safe, content and dynamic, ensuring education and employment, health and social services and, most important, creating peaceful communities where we may live without conflict or fear. Despite our diversity, we come together to recognize that we all speak a single language and that we all share a single, simple to use and yet powerful tool, that is, sport.

Sport has a unique power to attract, mobilize and inspire. By its very nature, sport is about participation. It is about social inclusion. It stands for human values such as the acceptance of binding rules and discipline, teamwork and fairness. However, it can be more than that. Sport plays a significant role as a promoter of social integration and economic development in different geographical, cultural and political contexts. Sport is an influential instrument for strengthening social ties and networks and for promoting the ideals of peace, fraternity, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and, not least, justice.

Malaysia considers itself a young nation, and it is fair to see sport as an agent of change and catalyst of our successful nation-building process. Since our independence, sport has contributed to developing the spirit of Malaysia as a nation and has promoted national integration among multiracial groups. In sports, nationalism serves as a natural framework for unifying people and is invaluable in consolidating Malaysia's multiracial society. In order to fully harness sport's potential in that context, appropriate national policies, investments and capacities are needed to support and, where appropriate, scale up national programmes. At the national level, Governments must be aware of the power of sport to help meet their domestic development goals and the importance of integrating sport into their development strategies and approaches.

Based on foresight and a belief in sports' transformational potential, Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, who was Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in 1988, spearheaded the formulation of the National Sport Policy in order to implement various projects to

inculcate patriotism in the citizens. Sports programmes and cultural activities were planned to create a deep-rooted national feeling of unity among multiracial groups and were applauded as a large-scale extension of a feeling of togetherness and unity. On the way forward, the Sport Development Act of 1997 was enacted to further stipulate guidelines on sports development in order to promote and mainstream the development and administration of sport in Malaysia. Those initiatives have only one aim — developing a more prosperous, healthy and united community.

Malaysia supports the promotion of sport for persons with disabilities as a crucial step in changing attitudes and building community support. In Malaysia, many local projects include community education, which is also important at the international level. With regard to public awareness of inclusivity, paralympics are not defined by disability, but by opportunity and fierce competition. They are defined by the strengthening of friendship, sincerity, camaraderie and what it means to be human.

Malaysia has been taking part in international disability sports competitions since the early 1970s, including multisport and multidisability competitions, single-disability competitions and single-sport competitions. We have hosted various international events including the first Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Para Games in 2001 and the ninth Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled in 2006. Malaysia is also honoured to be one of the founders of the ASEAN Para Sports Federation in 2000 and the Asian Paralympic Council in 2002. The secretariats of both organizations are based in Kuala Lumpur, our capital city.

Malaysia is a strong believer that achieving success at the international level acts as an inspiration that conveys a message to the international community of greater solidarity, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence worldwide. In that regard, Malaysia is proud to mention here that the years 2010 and 2011 have been extraordinary for the Olympic Council of Malaysia and the Malaysian sport arena overall. Malaysia participated in five multisport games, namely, the first Youth Olympic Games, held in Singapore, the XIX Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi, the sixteenth Asian Games organized in Guangzhou, China, in 2010, the second Asian Beach Games in Muscat, Oman, in 2010, and the seventh Asian Winter Games held in 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The Malaysian contingent has achieved very encouraging results, especially at the XIX Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi in October 2010, where Malaysia garnered 12 gold medals, 10 silver medals and 14 bronze medals, surpassing its record of 10 gold medals won at the Kuala Lumpur 1998 Commonwealth Games. Riding on the success of the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, the Malaysian contingent to the sixteenth Asian Games held in Guangzhou in November 2010 won 9 gold medals, 18 silver medals and 14 bronze medals, bettering its record of 8 gold medals won in Doha at the fifteenth Asian Games held in 2006.

The next nine months will be another challenging and exciting period for Malaysia, as the main focus of the Olympic Council of Malaysia and the elite Malaysian athletes will be busy qualifying for the London 2012 Olympic Games. To celebrate the countdown to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games to be held in London, in 2009 the Malaysian Government launched the Road to London 2012 and a nationwide campaign to promote widespread awareness and exposure of the programme.

While sport alone cannot prevent conflict or build peace, it can assist in peacebuilding interventions. Peacebuilding is a continuing process ranging from violence prevention to humanitarian relief and from early recovery to the long-term construction or reconstruction of society. Raising awareness and building support among political, community and civil society leaders and senior Government officials are critical first steps in mobilizing Government action around sport for development and peace. Through collaboration and cooperation, Governments should strengthen their efforts towards using sport to overcome development challenges and, in turn, achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

In short, Malaysia believes in the concept of sport for the development of peace. We have faith in the ability of sport to transcend socio-cultural and political boundaries and in its capacity as a powerful global communications platform. It has the potential to empower, motivate and inspire natural abilities and to draw on, develop and showcase individual strengths and competencies.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): The agenda item under consideration today, entitled "Sport for peace and development: building a

peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", represents quite an array of activities. It is embodied in draft resolution A/66/L.3, of which Cameroon is a sponsor.

There are only a few months remaining before the Olympic and Paralympic Games are held in London. Now, during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly with its special theme of "The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes through peaceful means", the introduction at this juncture of this agenda item and this draft resolution, which has received broad-based support, points to the desire of the international community to set about building a better world through the Olympic ideal. My country, which owes its global renown to the sports policy pursued by our head of State, His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, knows just how much it owes in terms in terms of international recognition to the achievements of our athletes in the international arena, particularly the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon.

Amateur sport and professional sport are not possible except in an environment of peace. While sport can point to peace, it can also bring about peace between people. This has been the case since the dawn of time, as we can see in Greek tradition, which has become universal today, with the Olympic Truce, which involved a cessation of hostilities for seven days before the Olympic Games and seven days after, in keeping with the instructions of the legendary oracle of Delphi, with a view to replacing the cycle of conflict every four years with a friendly athletic competition.

Another illustration, this time from more modern times, of the role of sport as a driver for peace is the fraternizing between Turkey and Armenia that resulted from a football match, which took place on the occasion of the first exchange of visits by the leaders of those countries in September 2008. We also saw the same friendly relations manifest in the support by the North Korean people for the South Korean team during its brilliant performance in 2002 World Cup competition, moving across physical barriers and political disagreements that have kept the two countries at odds for the past five decades.

Another eloquent example is the great unity and symbiosis created in South Africa's multiracial society in 1995 when that country's team won the Rugby World Cup only a year after the end of apartheid and despite the rancour and discrimination that were still rife in South Africa then.

In my own country, Cameroon, sport in general and football in particular, are a powerful factor for social cohesion, fraternity and national harmony — a bedrock of peace and development. Cameroon's conviction that sport can play a catalyzing role in peace and development was expressed on numerous occasions by our President of the Republic Paul Biya, and by our Minister for Foreign Affairs, most recently during 2010 celebration of the Days of Africa, just before the Soccer World Cup organized in South Africa.

The examples that I have just mentioned to illustrate the catalyzing role of sport show perfectly that the ideal of peace can indeed be achieved through sport. My country therefore joins its voice to that of all Member States and relevant stakeholders in the appeal launched by the draft resolution that we are about to adopt, so as to ensure that the Olympic Truce is respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the spirit of the ancient Olympics.

I would like to conclude by assuring the Assembly and the Secretary-General of the support and unwavering cooperation of my delegation.

Mr. Diallo (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): We meet here today, as tradition would have it, in the year before the Olympic Games in order to nourish our reflections on the dialectic that flows from the beautiful trio of sport, peace and development. From 27 July to 12 August and from 29 August to 9 September 2012 the world of sport will be together in the city of London to organize sporting events in celebration of the XXX Olympiad and the XIV Paralympic Games. It will no doubt be an important moment, one of the biggest human gatherings of the modern world, replete with symbols, teachings, experiences and high stakes.

As the Secretary-General said at the Sport for Peace and Development Forum in Geneva last May,

> "Sport has become a world language, a common denominator that breaks down all the walls, all the barriers ... It is a worldwide industry whose practices can have widespread impact".

Beyond the various sports activities that the youth of the world will be participating in when they visit London in a spirit of fair play, healthy

competitiveness, competition, a taste for victory, the joy and humility in victory and dignity in defeat, perseverance in effort, in short, sportsmanship, it is worth underscoring that this global athletic meeting is the irrefutable symbol of a true communion of our international community. That is the spirit that the pedagogue Pierre de Coubertin, the founding father of the modern Olympic Games, sought to confer on sport, an unrivalled activity of coming together and sharing, escape, high humour, addiction to the unexpected, and the notion of finding the right amount of effort to apply without expending unnecessary force. In this often too-tormented world, the Olympic Movement can provide hope and brotherhood and build bridges between continents, crossing social divides and political systems and regimes.

Senegal, a sponsor of draft resolution A/66/L.3, which we hope will be adopted, welcomes the great enthusiasm and international solidarity for promoting the ideals of peace everywhere and for all time through, in particular, sport.

As we call upon Member States to observe the Olympic Truce throughout the entire period from the opening ceremony to the closing ceremony of the Games, the international community seeks to renew its ambition to build a better world, using sport to forge friendships among athletes, youth and communities around the world. Such concerns, furthermore, are the bedrock of the Charter of the Organization.

Through the International Olympic Truce Foundation, the International Olympic Committee seeks, among other goals, to encourage the politicians of the world to work for peace. May the Olympic Truce that is symbolized by the dove placed before the Olympic flame always shine and fill our hearts, in an era characterized by fear of war and violence, with hope for the coming of a world of peace.

I would also like to express our country's full support for the welcome initiative launched by Mr. Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport and the Olympics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, called "International Inspiration", which is an ambitious programme that seeks to use the power of sport to enrich the lives of thousands of children and youth around the world, particularly in the developing world, by helping them to gain the skills they need to become positive sports role models and inspiration for their peers. It is on this note of hope that I would like to conclude — the hope that all Olympic activities may contribute to the ideals of peace, brotherhood and solidarity that our Organization holds so dear.

Ms. Alsaleh (Syria) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation wishes to join the consensus and sign up as a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/66/L.3, in light of the noble objectives and lofty expectations that all of us in the international community seek to fulfil . We firmly believe that sport has a significant role to play in promoting education, health, development and peace, as well as in building solidarity among peoples.

Between 24 September and 3 October 2010, Syria hosted the Paralympic Games, organized under the auspices of our First Lady. Many States participated, bringing nearly 2,000 athletes — men and women — to compete in 15 different Olympic sports.

At the same time, we believe that the draft resolution should not be used as a pretext to focus on building peace only occasionally. We believe that Member States need to focus on building a world of peace in all areas, under all circumstances and at all times in a manner that ensures respect for justice, rejection of foreign occupation and respect among all States, in conformity with the Charter.

The Acting President (*spoke in Arabic*): I give the floor to the observer of the Holy See.

Archbishop Chullikatt (Holy See): As the General Assembly takes up agenda item 11 on sport for peace and development, my delegation recalls the important role of sport in promoting the comprehensive development of the human person and the construction of a truly human society, based on respect for the dignity of each and every person.

Next year the international community will come together to celebrate the Games of the XXX Olympiad and the XIV Paralympic Games in London. The Olympic Charter reminds us that the ultimate purpose of the Games is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of human persons, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity. On this occasion, as the world prepares for those important events, we are reminded of the role of sport in the life of the human family.

Sport has notable educational potential, especially for young people, and for that reason it is of

great importance not only as recreation but also in the formation of the human person. Sport is among the means belonging to the common patrimony of humankind and that are agents for moral perfection and human formation. If that is true for sport activity in general, it is all the more so for that carried out in schools and sports associations, for the purpose of ensuring a human and value-based formation of new generations.

Sport pursued with passion and vigilant ethical sense becomes, especially for youth, training in healthy competitiveness and physical improvement. It can be a school of formation in human and spiritual values and a privileged means of personal growth and of contact with society. Sport can inculcate such important values as love of life, the spirit of sacrifice, fair play, perseverance, respect for others, friendship, sharing and solidarity.

To achieve those lofty objectives, sport nevertheless needs to discover its deepest ethos and comply with the basic principle of the primacy of the human person. In that regard, a healthy approach to sport must be adopted so that it is not practiced as an end in itself — in which case it risks becoming a vain and harmful idol — but is made a meaningful instrument for the comprehensive development of the person and the construction of a society suited to the human person. When understood in this way, sport is not an end but a means, and can become a vehicle of civility and genuine recreation, encouraging people to put the best of themselves on the field and to avoid what might be unreasonably dangerous or seriously harmful to themselves or others.

Through sport activities, the community can contribute to the formation of young people, offering an appropriate ambit for their human and spiritual growth. In fact, when they are directed to the integral development of the person and managed by qualified and competent personnel, sport initiatives reveal themselves to be propitious opportunities to become true and proper educators and teachers of life for young people.

It is therefore necessary that in our time — in which we see the urgent need to educate new generations — communities continue to support sport for young people so that they can fully appreciate competitive activity, including its positive aspects. Those include its capacity to stimulate competitiveness, courage and tenacity in the pursuit of objectives, while avoiding negative tendencies that can pervert its very nature.

The Olympic motto of *Citius, Altius, Fortius* — "Faster, Higher, Stronger" — not only reminds us of what is demanded of those participating in the upcoming Games, but also acts as an invitation to all persons to be more committed to the advancement of peace and development so as to build a better world.

May sport always be a valued building block of peace, solidarity and friendship among peoples and nations, so that it can truly make an effective contribution to peaceful understanding between peoples and to establishing a civilization rooted in love.

Before I conclude, allow me to offer my delegation's best wishes to the organizers and the host city of London for the success of the next Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Acting President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with resolution 64/3, of 19 October 2009, I now call on the observer for the International Olympic Committee.

Mr. Pescante (International Olympic Committee) (*spoke in French*): The International Olympic Committee (IOC) conveys its compliments to the General Assembly. On behalf of the IOC, I am honoured to have this opportunity to discuss the Olympic Truce and the role of sport in promoting a more peaceful world.

Allow me first to thank those who have helped bring us to this point. The IOC expresses its gratitude in particular to the Government of the United Kingdom, to the colleagues of the organizing committee of the Olympic and Paralympic committees in London for having allowed these matters to be brought to the attention of the General Assembly as we move towards the XXX Olympiad and the games thereof next summer.

We are particularly grateful that this esteemed body has approved the Olympic Truce resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" before every edition of the Games since 1994. Cooperation between the IOC and the United Nations on this issue has helped build the foundation for our deep and growing partnership. The links between us have grown even stronger since

the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, granted the IOC Permanent Observer status just two years ago.

Today we again request the Assembly's support for the Olympic Truce. I would also like to express our thanks to the Group of Friends of Sport. This informal group of Permanent Representatives from more than 40 United Nations Member States has played a leading role in support of the Olympic Truce and the broader effort to integrate sport into the work of the United Nations across a wide range of issues.

The draft resolution under consideration by the General Assembly today (A/66/L.3) is far more than a symbolic act. The Olympic Truce sends a powerful message that reaffirms the role of sport as an antidote to conflict. It is a message rooted in antiquity, but it is just as relevant in the age of the Internet as it was in ancient Greece.

(*spoke in English*)

Another world is possible, also thanks to sport and the Olympics. Centuries of history teach us this lesson. It was right at the start, in 776 B.C., on the occasion of the first games at Olympia, that the Olympic Truce was first proclaimed. The *polis*, the city-States of those times, which were even more bellicose than today's States, respected the sacred nature of the games. The great Greek historian Herodotus tells how even the battle of Thermopylae was delayed by the Olympic Games. This is our inheritance from distant times past. Another world is possible, thanks again to sport and the Olympic Games. That was the ideal that, at the end of the nineteenth century, fired the heart of Baron de Coubertin, who successfully dedicated his life and work to returning the Olympic Games to humanity.

During the last century, the Olympic Games did not stop wars; wars stopped the games, as occurred during the world conflicts that afflicted the twentieth century. Nonetheless, that spirit of peace, of encounter and of tolerance has remained the dominant impulse of Olympic action, a philosophy that some would characterize by the credo that "the important thing is to participate".

"Participate" is the verb that motivates all our activities — participate in competitions with full respect for the rules and for the opponent, who is never an enemy; and participate in the construction of a world that does not divide men and women or boys and girls on ethnic grounds or because of their language or religion, but which instead sees them as one, as they are here at the United Nations.

Sport and the Olympic Games tell the story of this union. Again and again the diplomacy of peace has used sports arenas of all sizes and shapes, from a ping-pong table, where a thaw in relations between America and China was negotiated, to a cricket pitch, where we are now witnessing the current rapprochement between India and Pakistan, to a football stadium, such as the one in Rome where Yasser Arafat and Shimon Peres, two Nobel Peace Prize winners, sat side by side in 2000 during a football match between Israel and Palestine, to the podium at the 2008 Beijing Games, where two mothers representing Georgia and Russia, two nations at war, embraced in a simple gesture as two women, not two enemies. We saw the same spirit at work in a parade of athletes, when a people divided by a border that had been invented by war joined together behind a single flag. Such was the case of Germany, united for the first time at the 1960 Rome Games, and later of Korea, which paraded with an athlete from the North and one from the South carrying the same flag at the 2000 Sydney Games.

This is not rhetoric, but rather the chronicles of what we have seen during the events that constitute the Olympic Games, which are uniquely global in these times of globalization.

Participate — that is what youth across the world are asking to do in these times of world crisis, as they bear witness to the thirst for freedom, democracy and peace that new technologies have spread across the globe. When they speak of values, these young men and women are not referring to stock exchange indexes.

I thank members for their support for the Olympic Truce. To those who have yet again seconded it, to those who are supporting it for the first time, thank you on behalf of the International Olympic Committee. I thank them, above all, on behalf of those millions of men and women, especially young people, who in whatever part of the world are suffering the grief, pain and ill-treatment caused by each and every war. We hope that, thanks to sport, they will find a little relief from their tragedies.

In closing, allow me to paraphrase the memorable sentence spoken by the first man to set foot on the

moon. The Olympic Truce is one small step for mankind, yet one giant leap for humankind.

I thank the United Nations for accomplishing that together with us and together with the Olympic Movement.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on agenda item 11 and its sub-item (a).

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/66/L.3, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department of General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed in A/66/L.3, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft: Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, the Philippines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, South Sudan, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/66/L.3, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision A/66/L.3 without a vote?

Draft resolution A/66/L.3 was adopted (resolution 66/5).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the General Assembly, we wish every success to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in hosting the Olympic Summer Games next year.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 11 and its sub-item (a).

Mr. Zinsou (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Agenda item 15

Culture of peace

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/280)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/66/273)

The Acting President: I wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, circulated in document A/66/273.

I wish also to draw the attention of members to a letter dated 11 August 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the fourth annual report of the High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, contained in document A/66/305.

Statement by the Acting President

The Acting President: The Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization states rightly that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed".

The unanimous adoption in 1999 by the General Assembly of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (resolution 53/243) was motivated by this very truth. In this respect, the General Assembly reaffirmed the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind. That historic, norm-setting document is considered one of the most significant legacies of the United Nations and one that will endure for generations.

By adopting the Declaration and Programme of Action, the United Nations took the lead in laying the foundation of sustainable world peace by focusing on the importance and the necessity of building a culture of peace. It stipulates that a culture of peace consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity; which reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and

negotiation; and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of society.

First and foremost, the Declaration called for full respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law; full respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; a commitment to the peaceful settlement of conflicts; efforts to meet the development and environmental needs of present and future generations; respect for and the promotion of the right to development; respect for and the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for women and men; respect for and the promotion of the right of everyone to freedom of expression, opinion and information; and adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations. All of these should be fostered by an enabling national and international environment that is conducive to peace.

The Programme of Action (resolution 53/243 B) provides us all with a clear set of guidelines for action. It is a truly universal document that transcends borders, cultures, beliefs and societies.

Last year, in its resolution 65/11 of 23 November 2010, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace", the General Assembly reiterated that

> "the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace was to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, and call[ed] upon all concerned to renew their attention to that objective" (*resolution 65/11, para. 1*).

The Programme of Action also emphasizes that civil society needs to be fully engaged in the fuller development of a culture of peace and that the educative and informative role of the media contributes to the promotion of a culture of peace. This special role of civil society, as well as that of the media and public information, will strengthen the global movement for the culture of peace with the wholehearted support of all.

The most significant way to promote a culture of peace is through peace education. Peace education needs to be accepted in all parts of the world and in all societies and countries as an essential element in creating a culture of peace.

In order to effectively meet the challenges posed by the ongoing complexities of our time, the young people of today deserve a radically different education that does not glorify war but educates for peace, non-violence and international cooperation. They need the skills and knowledge to create and nurture peace for their individual selves and for the world to which they belong.

We should never forget that there will be no peace without development and no development without peace. It is also crucial to remember that sustainable peace is inseparable from women's equality. The General Assembly has further urged the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education. When women are marginalized, there is little chance for an open, participatory and peaceful society.

In today's world, the culture of peace should be seen as the essence of a new humanity — a new global civilization based on inner oneness and outer diversity. Let us commence our debate on agenda item 15 in that spirit.

Mr. Al Rashed (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country would like to wholeheartedly thank the Secretary-General for all of his efforts in preparing the report contained in document A/66/280 on the activities of the main United Nations entities in the field of intercultural, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue. We wish to also thank the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the central role it plays and for all its efforts to strengthen and consolidate the culture a peace, creating conducive to fostering such a culture by implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (resolution 53/243).

The preamble to the United Nations Charter begins with "We the peoples of the United Nations", which means that although we have different

backgrounds, beliefs, civilizations and cultures, we all come together and join hands under the umbrella of the culture of humankind. The State of Kuwait therefore places tremendous emphasis on the importance of promoting a culture of peace and promoting dialogue among cultures, civilizations and faiths, particularly in the current conditions of intolerance, extremism and hatred among peoples, human rights violations, racial discrimination and disrespect for religions and their symbols.

We would like to draw attention to the fact that dialogue or alliance among civilizations does not require us to dissolve ourselves into one religion, culture or civilization. In other words, we must all live according to the same set of principles whereby we seek out the causes of our differences and try to address them, and in which the religious and cultural diversity of the peoples of the world is respected. We therefore call on this Organization to scale up all efforts to promote a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations and to join hands in combating intolerance, extremism and violence in all its forms, and in fostering mutual respect among nations and peoples. This is a responsibility that lies with all Member States and international organizations.

Kuwait strongly emphasizes the importance of supporting this Organization in promoting the lofty principles enshrined in its Charter. I would like to elaborate on the positive steps my country has taken to promote and encourage dialogue among civilizations.

Kuwait is a member of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations, reflecting its conviction in the importance of dialogue and interaction among civilizations and peoples. Kuwait has set up a national plan for 2009-2011 consistent with the Alliance of Civilizations initiative. The objectives of the plan are to foster a culture of tolerance, peace and moderation; to combat terrorism, intolerance and violence; and to raise awareness and interaction among various cultures and peoples. We have launched a number of programmes, activities and plans of action in our various ministries, and are now finalizing the third national plan, for 2011-2013.

Kuwait has also set up an international centre for moderation that calls for moderation of opinions, ideas and the treatment of others — precepts that are at the heart of Islam. Peace had deep roots in the culture and history of Kuwait even before its inception as a modern State. Peace has given rise to tolerance, acceptance of others and increased dialogue with all other cultures and religions. Our modern Constitution guarantees respect for the freedom of opinion, expression and religion, and the practice of religious rites in safety and freedom. Although small, Kuwait is a place where many peoples come together. We are host to more than 120 nationalities, representing religions and cultures from around the world and living together in security, stability, mutual respect and dignity.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that enriching and fostering a culture of peace is at the heart of respect for the lofty principles enshrined in our Charter, such as respect for human rights, freedom of opinion, freedom of speech, justice under the law, equality, the elimination of poverty and unemployment, and raising awareness of the culture of peace. It is impossible for a people deprived of its basic rights to live in dignity or nourish a culture of peace and tolerance. On that basis, my country calls on Member States to respect and implement those rights so that together we may enjoy a world of amity, peace and tolerance.

Mr. Javadekar (India): I am deeply honoured and privileged to participate in today's joint debate on the culture of peace, and grateful for the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on intercultural, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue (A/66/280).

We note with satisfaction that celebrating the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010 and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, has provided a unique opportunity for the United Nations system to reaffirm its fundamental commitment to the plurality of humanity, in which cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are mutually reinforcing. I think this is exactly what the Indian ethos stands for.

In today's world we are witnessing the rise of extremism and intolerance, outbreaks of sectarian violence and increasing use of the language of hatred and violence. These pose a serious challenge to the very foundations of our society. Here we must salute Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., who proved the power of non-violence. We must create an environment conducive to fostering a dialogue between diverse cultures, races, faiths and religions that

inculcates values that promote the transition from force to reason, from conflict to dialogue and from violence to peace. Dialogue among different cultures and religions is also important, because it is precisely in the absence of such a dialogue and understanding that intolerance, bigotry and violence flourish.

It is heartening to note that the Alliance of Civilizations, which includes a Group of Friends with 128 members, has now become one of the premier platforms for intercultural and interreligious dialogue within and between diverse societies. We therefore welcome the Doha Civil Society Pre-Forum.

We also support the Department of Public Information (DPI) in its endeavour to strengthen its voice on intercultural dialogue by organizing and covering a wide range of events. It should be mentioned here that on 5 May the Indian Permanent Mission to the United Nations associated itself with the DPI and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in organizing an authors' colloquium on unlearning intolerance at United Nations Headquarters. The Indian delegation also organized a function to mark the International Day of Non-Violence at the United Nations on 30 September, at which the Secretary-General was the chief guest. India's leading historian, Mr. Ramachandra Guha, delivered the keynote address.

India, the largest democracy in the world and a nation of unparalleled diversity with a population of more than 1.2 billion, is the second most populous nation in the world. While India, of course, has the largest Hindu population, we also have one of the world's largest Muslim populations. And India is home to significant numbers of practitioners of almost every other major religious denomination, be it Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism or Bahaism. India is the birthplace of Jainism. Gautama Buddha gave his first sermon in Sarnath, an eminent centre of Indian philosophy, after he attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya.

All this happened because our kings offered land and facilities to all religions. The history of India, in essence, is a narrative of conversations between different civilizations and, indeed, a conversation with nature itself. India is home to scores of languages, hundreds of dialects and thousands of cuisines, and a medley of races, colours, landscapes and cultures. This assimilation and accommodation of diversity have contributed to the richness of our composite culture and the durability of our civilization. This we call unity in diversity.

Our civilizational legacy treats nature as a source of nurture, and high value is placed on living in harmony with nature. The Vedas are a repository treating of the holistic development of the human being in full harmony with its surroundings. The continuous strand of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* — which means "the whole world is one family" — has been a constant guide for our interaction and exchange of thought with the outside world. The noble principles of life and spirituality, including non-violence, have influenced successive generations of people worldwide.

We in India understand the importance of building alliances between religions, cultures and ethnic groups, and we have always supported every effort to build bridges of understanding between nations, peoples, religions and cultures around the world. It is our considered view that successful pluralism must be grounded in the basic tenets of mutual understanding and respect for diverse traditions. The Indian ethos believes in the tenet of ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti, meaning that there are many ways to reach God. The Indian ethos also treats believers and non-believers equally. This is also critical to the harmonious development of all sections of society, including the encouragement of gender equity and the empowerment of women all over the world.

The only way to achieve this goal is to move conceptually towards a new dimension of dialogue and harmony among diverse cultures, races, faiths and religions so that all human beings can live in the sane and peaceful global society of our collective dreams.

Mr. Goraish (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to express my country's appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations to foster a culture of peace and to introduce it onto the agenda. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his work in fostering a culture of peace, dialogue and peaceful coexistence among the peoples of the world.

We have read the Secretary-General's report (A/66/280) of 8 August 2011, submitted pursuant to resolution 65/138, in which he provides an overview of the activities carried out by the main United Nations entities in the field of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions. He also takes stock of the consultations among Members of the United Nations to

foster dialogue among cultures and religions and peaceful coexistence among nations.

We believe that we have to devise effective mechanisms to foster the culture of peace in all its dimensions, including dialogue among cultures and religions, in the near future. I take this opportunity to highlight our commitment to the various resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 53/243 of 13 September 1999 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace; resolution 52/15, proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace; resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998, proclaiming the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010); and resolution 65/11 on the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

My country has also expressed its support for all other initiatives, including the Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development held by the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Manila in March 2010. My country has made additional efforts in that regard alongside Egypt, Pakistan, Indonesia, Morocco, Iran, Qatar and Senegal. In that connection, I would like also to highlight the importance of the high-level meeting on interfaith dialogue that was held in November 2008 under the auspices of King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia within the framework of his efforts, ranging from Mecca to Madrid, to advance all initiatives aimed at achieving today's goals.

The Sudan has been at the forefront of countries calling for the promotion of a culture of peace among religions and cultures, given its status as one of the founding States of the Non-Aligned Movement and based on our conviction of the importance of promoting dialogue among beliefs, religions and cultures as a way to achieve the goals of peace and development. That ideal is also enshrined in the Constitution of the Sudan.

As regards our national efforts, our country has taken all possible steps to advance peaceful coexistence and the culture of peace. UNICEF, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund and the Sudanese Ministry of Youth and Sports and National Council for the Respect of the Rights of Children, organized a meeting on 24 September on the theme "We Will Come Together to Foster the Culture of Peace". The meeting highlighted the right of children to self-expression and participation in deepening the values of amity and brotherhood among the young people of the Sudan. A number of organizations participated in that event, which called for the promotion of peace among cultures. We celebrate that occasion every year.

Our country has also allocated more time to programmes fostering the culture of peace on our national radio and television stations and other media, with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of promoting the culture of peace.

Today, the international community is facing growing challenges related to the economy and climate change. The developing countries are working hard to implement the Millennium Development Goals and to advance the interlinked culture of peace between developed and developing nations, because the culture of peace cannot be separated from other development challenges. We must unite to foster the culture of peace.

In conclusion, I would like to inform the General Assembly that my country will continue to make every effort to live up to the lofty principles enshrined in our Charter based on fostering dialogue among cultures and religions and on enhancing peaceful coexistence instead of violence and confrontation. We should avoid alienating and marginalizing some countries at the expense of serving the narrow agendas of others.

We must bear in mind that people have come to see that they have been created equal and as different tribes, ethnicities and colours. They must live together in harmony and reach out to each other in order to serve the interests of peace and the lofty goals and principles of religions.

Mr. Srivali (Thailand): Thailand takes note of the commendable efforts of Member States and the United Nations system in promoting dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions towards a culture of peace and implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, as reflected in the reports of the Secretary-General (A/66/280) and the Director-General of UNESCO (A/66/273).

As an original member of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilization, Thailand looks forward to participating in the Alliance's next annual forum, to be held in Doha in December, and welcomes the emphasis

placed on creating synergies between the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations and the advancement of the Millennium Development Goals at the upcoming meeting.

Thailand would like to share our views on this issue. First, Thailand encourages the use of new communications technologies and social media, as well as formal and non-formal education, to promote dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions. Such regularized sharing of experiences, not just of knowledge, based on mutual respect and appreciation of diversity, can make an important contribution to world peace.

Secondly, we concur with the report of the Secretary-General, which stresses that the basic prerequisites for effective dialogue include equality, justice, poverty reduction and respect for human rights. Thailand supports the efforts of Member States in ensuring that these fundamental conditions are met, with the support of the United Nations and regional organizations. Peace must be built from within. That is why national ownership is so important.

Thirdly, Thailand is of the view that peace cannot be taken for granted even in the best of times. Rather, it requires continual effort to maintain and strengthen. In order to make peace sustainable, a culture of peace must be cultivated at all levels, especially among young people. All groups and sectors of society can and should play a part in promoting dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions, including women, the media, civil society and the private sector.

Fourthly, Thailand fully supports the efforts of the United Nations, especially the United Nations peacekeeping missions and the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as other regional and international actors in pursuit of sustainable peace. In taking the lead in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts around the world, the United Nations system must be well-coordinated and take a forward-looking, long-term view in carrying out its work.

Fifthly, Thailand remains committed to promoting dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions at home. At the subregional level, cultural and religious dialogue is ongoing through exchanges of visits, workshops and seminars at all levels, including among religious figures, academics and representatives of the media and youth. At the national level, Government agencies have developed a national strategy on interfaith dialogue as a guideline for promoting Thailand's participation in regional and international interfaith dialogue cooperation frameworks and their implementation of relevant activities.

Thailand reaffirms its commitment to the culture of peace and will closely follow initiatives and activities on this issue.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.